

Lebanese bus crash kills 53 in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A Lebanese tourist bus plunged into a ravine in eastern Turkey Wednesday and police said 53 people were killed. Most were Shiite Muslim pilgrims on their way to shrines in Iran. The bus, carrying 54 passengers, plunged off a bend at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) near the village of Sonkaya 18 kilometres from the town of Dogubeyazit on the Iranian border. A traffic police officer in Dogubeyazit told Reuters by telephone that 49 Lebanese, including 14 women and a child, died in the crash. Three Iraqis, one of them a woman, were killed. Another woman of unknown nationality also died and a badly injured Lebanese man was taken to hospital in the town of Agri. A Lebanese diplomat said the bus belonged to a Beirut travel agency which has been organising pilgrim tours to Shiite shrines in Iran, notably Qom, for at least five years. Last year 6,270 people died on roads in Turkey, which has the one of the highest traffic accident rates in the world. In February, 22 Iraqis were killed when their bus hurtled into an icy river in northeastern Turkey. A deranged Turk set fire to a Greek tour bus in Istanbul in April, killing himself and 34 Greek tourists.



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Iraq restores int'l telex link

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has resumed international telex communications after a seven-month interruption caused by the Gulf war, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Wednesday. The director of the central office for telex services told INA that technicians reconnected the international telex lines with the main telephone switching board in Baghdad. Telex service covers all of Iraq's 18 provinces, INA said. "Work will continue to increase international telex lines and telex services will be improved during next week through adding new international lines," the news agency said. Iraq's telecommunications facilities were bombed by the allies in the Gulf war. Gradually, telephone service has been restored in the country, and Iraq announced earlier this month that some international calls could be made.

Yemen signs gas accord with U.S. firms

SANAA (R) — Yemen's oil minister, who returned Tuesday night from the United States, said he had signed protocols with two American firms on exploiting gasfields in the eastern region. The Yemeni News Agency quoted Saleh Ben Hussaini as saying Hunt and Exxon would submit a final study on gas exploitation for development purposes in the next few months. Official oil sources said three new gasfields have been discovered in the region with estimated reserves of more than 10 trillion cubic feet. In 1989 the Oil Ministry estimated Yemen's reserves of natural gas at seven trillion cubic feet.

Singapore's Changi again voted best airport

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore's Changi airport has been voted the world's best for the fourth successive year by readers of the British magazine "Business Traveller," the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) said. Changi won 49 per cent of the votes for best airport, followed by Amsterdam's Schiphol with 14 per cent and Zurich-Kloten with six per cent, CAAS quoted the magazine as saying.

Morocco jails 6 students

RABAT (AP) — Six Islamic fundamentalist students have been sentenced to three months in prison due to clashes with police over library hours that left one student dead, the MAP news agency reported Wednesday. The court of appeals in Casablanca upheld convictions against the students for "violence against civil servants exercising their duties" in protests at Casablanca's University School of Medicine in April, MAP reported. The elected student council, composed primarily of Islamic fundamentalists, led protests last spring to demand that school administrators extend library hours ahead of exams. On April 18, club-wielding police charged protesters outside the university hospital. Some students sought refuge in the hospital, and one was crushed by elevator doors when he tried to cram into a crowded lift. Fifteen other students remain accused of "theft, outrage and violence toward civil servants" that could result in five-year prison sentences, MAP reported.

Police arrest Bhutto followers

KARACHI (R) — Police arrested more than 30 activists of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Wednesday in a crackdown after the killing of a police official, a PPP spokesman said. But a police spokesman said only 18 PPP activists were detained after gunmen shot dead Sub-Inspector Malik Mohammad Ahsan Tuesday. He was investigating cases against Ms. Bhutto's jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari. The PPP spokesman put the number of arrests at 30. Police blame the killing on the clandestine Al Zulfikar organisation.

Back off, Gorbachev warns Yeltsin amid government changes

Boris Pankin named foreign minister; KGB loses its powerful governing body

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev told Russian leader Boris Yeltsin Wednesday to stop encroaching on his authority, as Mr. Yeltsin's men consolidated their grip on key posts in the Soviet government.

With Mr. Gorbachev's approval, the Soviet parliament formally sacked the national cabinet in the aftermath of last week's attempt to overthrow him by hardline Communists.

Mr. Gorbachev Wednesday named Boris N. Pankin, a former ambassador to Sweden as the new foreign minister in place of a man he fired after the coup, state television announced.

There had been intense speculation that Mr. Gorbachev would ask Eduard Shevardnadze to resume the post he resigned last December.

The announcement, read on the main evening news broadcast Vremya, gave no other details but noted that the nomination must be confirmed by the Supreme Soviet legislature.

Mr. Pankin, 60, was the only

Soviet ambassador who did not follow the orders issued by those who tried to topple Mr. Gorbachev last week, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Kozulin.

He said that Mr. Pankin most recently was ambassador to Czechoslovakia, and served as ambassador to Sweden starting in September 1982.

When Mr. Shevardnadze resigned, he warned that the nation was moving towards "dictatorship" and complaining that hardliners were blocking efforts to improve relations with the West.

Mr. Gorbachev last week fired Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, accusing him of "manoeuvring or worse" during the coup. Mr. Bessmertnykh issued a handwritten letter to lawmakers on Tuesday saying he was in his office during the takeover, trying to prevent damage to Soviet foreign relations.

Seeking to hold the crumbling Soviet state together, parliament Wednesday approved a temporary administration, with members

from all 15 constituent republics, to run the economy.

"I cannot trust this cabinet. That is that," Mr. Gorbachev, still bitter over ministers' role in the failed coup, told the chamber before the 402-16 vote.

He said a string of decrees which Mr. Yeltsin issued during the coup on matters legally the concern of the Kremlin had been appropriate in the circumstances.

But he added: "Now that is behind us, when documents appear... seeking to involve the leadership of Russia (in Soviet matters), I must say that this is unacceptable to all, including the president of Russia."

"Everything must be based on the constitution. And now on cooperation."

Earlier, Mr. Gorbachev dissolved the governing body of the KGB security service in another effort to restore his authority.

This hit at the third pillar of the old Soviet establishment, following the confiscation of Communist Party property and an announcement of sweeping

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Sharon gives detailed plans for settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, in a speech to Israel's parliament, has disclosed his most detailed plans to date for expanding Jewish settlement of the occupied West Bank by tens of thousands.

Mr. Sharon said the expansion of occupied Jerusalem to include "more of Israel" and the West Bank was crucial to future housing plans. On Wednesday, Reuters obtained a transcript of his Monday remarks.

"We have set for ourselves a goal of guaranteeing that in Jerusalem, the capital of the Jews and the eternal capital of Israel, there will be a Jewish majority. We are proceeding today with a far-reaching vision that in the greater Jerusalem area there will be a million Jews," Mr. Sharon said.

Mr. Sharon said his plan was for Jerusalem to link up with the largest West Bank Jewish settlement, Maale Adumim five kilometres to the east, and for Maale Adumim to extend eastward to ridges overlooking the town of Jericho.

"This is going to be the longest

city in the world," shouted opposition parliament member Haim Ramon.

Other areas of Jewish settlement in the West Bank would grow, including Avnei Hefetz near the town of Tulkarm where 4,000 homes would be built and Ariel near Nablus where 1,000 new homes are already under way, Mr. Sharon said.

Israel has stepped up land confiscation in the occupied territories, seizing more than seven per cent of the land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past 18 months, a Palestinian human rights group said Tuesday.

Israel now directly controls 50 to 60 per cent of the occupied land, and is using much of it for a massive Jewish settlement drive, Al Haq said in a report.

The land seizures are illegal and violate international human rights conventions that bar confiscation unless demanded by the necessities of war, said Al Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the Geneva-based International

from travel to Jordan would still not be allowed to leave. The easing of the travel procedures was to "make it easier for the rest of the population," she added.

Said Kanaan, a Nablu businessman, said what was introduced as an easing of travel restrictions "changed nothing, and had no basic or fundamental value."

The only difference will be that instead of turning back Palestinians who wish to travel to Amman at military headquarters, they will be sent home at the border, he said.

"I don't think this is more than a public relations issue by which they want to inform the world they have alleviated restrictions on Palestinians... to encourage them to go to the peace process," said Mr. Kanaan, who has been banned from travelling abroad since early last year.

"At least they could allow people like me to leave. If they have something against me let them put me in prison, but as long as they have nothing, let me

(Continued on page 3)

PLO team in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation, headed by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, arrived in Cairo Wednesday for talks on a proposed Middle East peace conference in October, government sources said.

They said Mr. Abbas, 60, his eighth visit to Cairo since the end of the Gulf war in February, would meet Foreign Minister Anwar Mosa Thursday after Mr. Musa's return from Libya.

Mr. Abbas told Egypt's weekly Al-Mussawir magazine that Palestinians would not mind a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on stages but bound by a timetable and eventually leading to self-determination.

He said if Israel agreed to give Palestinians self-rule in the occupied territories, they would request international supervision.

"But there is no clear and specific picture until now," he said. "We are about to go to the peace conference... on two grounds: Land for peace and (U.N.) Resolutions 242 and 338."

Palestinian representation to the U.S.- and Soviet-sponsored peace conference remains the main stumbling block. Israel insists no PLO members or East Jerusalem Palestinians included.

Mr. Abbas said if the United States wanted to hold the meeting on time, it first had to resolve the question of East Jerusalem and Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has reaffirmed that East Jerusalem must be included in the negotiations.

In an interview published in the early edition of Wednesday's Al-Gomhuriya newspaper Mr. Arafat raised five points that he said define the Palestinian position.

He said East Jerusalem should be subject to negotiation and Jerusalem Palestinians should take part in any Palestinian delegation.

Israel should withdraw from all Arab territories it occupies which include the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, Mr. Arafat added.

He also said Israeli settlements should be halted and Palestinians living there should be given international protection.

Mr. Arafat said Israel must give guarantees either to the Arab League or to Egypt that it

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His Majesty King Hussein with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in Vienna (Petra photo)

King arrives in London after thanking Austria for stand during crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in London from Austria Wednesday on a private visit to the United Kingdom during which he will meet with several British officials.

King Hussein's talks in London are expected to deal with the

latest developments in the Middle East and efforts exerted to convene an international peace conference.

King Hussein was received in the airport by senior British officials, Their Royal Highness Prince Moammad and Princess Taghreed and the Jordanian ambassador in London.

(Continued on page 5)

Little progress visible after Iran-Iraq talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Iraqi official left for home Wednesday after four days of talks in Tehran which apparently failed to resolve problems remaining from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki, seeing off Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sa'ad Abdul Majid Al-Faisal, said further talks were necessary to resolve outstanding issues, Tehran Radio reported.

It said Mr. Mottaki accepted Mr. Faisal's invitation to visit Baghdad but did not give a date.

Baghdad had indicated Mr. Faisal's talks had not made much headway when on Tuesday night it refused Tehran's offer to help repair Iraq's Shiite Muslim shrines in Najaf and Karbala, damaged in an abortive post-Gulf war rebellion.

Mr. Faisal discussed the exchange of the remaining prisoners of war (PoWs), dredging of the Shatt Al Arab border river as well as the fate of Iraqi aircraft which fled to Iran during the Gulf war with Mr. Mottaki and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

His visit was the first high-level

contact since March when the two neighbours resumed a war of words over Iraq's crackdown on Shiite Muslim and Kurdish rebels which erupted after the Gulf war.

Baghdad accused Tehran of sending saboteurs across the border and Iranian leaders renewed calls for the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Tehran, which remained neutral during the Gulf war and says Iraq's territorial integrity must remain intact, has called for resumption of contacts.

"For us the principle is to have relations with Iraq irrespective of who is ruling there," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday.

Mr. Velayati told Mr. Faisal Iran was ready to help repair the Karbala and Najaf shrines, among the most holy for Shiites, which were badly damaged in fighting between the army and rebels.

But the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "Let those who want to achieve political

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U.N. chief: Sahara plan goes ahead as planned

GENEVA (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday his peace plan for the Western Sahara would be implemented on schedule despite fresh fighting.

He said it was not for Morocco or the Polisario Front to decide on a timetable for ending the 15-year conflict over the phosphate-rich territory.

An upsurge of fighting this month after a two-year tacit truce has cast doubt on the U.N. plan to settle the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence for the former Spanish colony.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said a formal ceasefire would come into force on Sept. 6. It is to be followed by a referendum in January.

"It's my decision and I have informed them (the two sides) of my decision. It's as simple as that," he told a news conference.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met a senior Polisario official Tuesday. He held talks this month with Morocco's foreign minister.

Morocco's King Hassan earlier this month asked for a deal in implementing the plan.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said after meeting with Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

"Sept. 6 remains the ceasefire date and from that date we will begin full implementation of the peace plan."

Masri attends Libyan celebration

BENGHAZI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Taher Al Masri arrived here Wednesday to represent His Majesty King Hussein at a ceremony marking the end of the first phase of a Libyan desert river project. Mr. Masri, who is accompanied by the ministers of labour and health, is also carrying a message to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi from King Hussein in reply to a message the King had received from the Libyan leader inviting him to the ceremony. Mr. Masri's visit to Libya is the second by a high-ranking Jordanian official since relations between the two countries resumed last October. King Hussein visited Libya in February a few days before the Gulf war ended. General Qadhafi invited Arab and other world leaders to attend the opening of the "great Man-Made river" Wednesday. The billion-dollar water project was started in 1983. It is designed to carry water from a huge lake beneath the desert in the south through underground pipes to coastal cities in the north. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak met here with Yasser Arafat for the first time since the Gulf crisis when the two leaders supported different sides.

U.N. panel voices concern over Kuwaiti practices

By Caroline Faraj

Special to the Jordan Times

THE SUB-COMMISSION on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has expressed its deep concern over human rights violations committed by the Kuwaiti authorities against non-Kuwaitis in Kuwait, according to an official source at the sub-commission.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Al Rai, the source said that the committee adopted a draft resolution in voicing its deep concern over reports on arrests without trial, torture, unjust trials, enforced or involuntary disappearances, deaths in custody and possible extrajudicial executions in Kuwait as well as deportations and other abuses against non-Kuwaitis since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The sub-commission expressed hope that a fact-finding mission, appointed March 6, 1991 based on the commission resolutions 1991/67, will be ready to give more attention to major human rights violations in Kuwait.

The source told the Jordan Times that the draft resolution was supported by 16 votes in the

22-member gathering. Four votes were against and there were two abstentions, he said.

Following is the resolution: The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the universal declaration of human rights and the international covenants on human rights,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 45/170 of 18 December 1990 concerning the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait,

Concerned at allegations related to arbitrary arrests, torture, unfair trials, enforced or involuntary disappearances, deaths in custody and possible extrajudicial executions in Kuwait, as well as deportations and other abuses against non-Kuwaitis since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces,

Expresses its hope that the special rapporteur appointed pursuant to Commission Resolution 1991/67 will give due attention to alleged gross violations of human rights currently occurring in Kuwait and will inform the commission of developments affecting the situation of human rights in Kuwait since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces."

Kurdish leaders meet, divided over strategy

SHAQLAWA, Iraq (R) — Iraq's Kurdish leaders and thousands of heavily-armed supporters met in the rebel-held town of Shaqlawa Wednesday to discuss splits over a draft autonomy deal being negotiated with Baghdad.

Several thousand Kurdish Peshmarga guerrillas armed with assault rifles packed the mountain resort of Shaqlawa where their chiefs were to discuss the latest autonomy terms.

The Iraqi Kurdistan Front, grouping eight political parties, had postponed a meeting three times in less than a week because of internal dissent over the draft.

The dispute pits Massoud Barzani against Jalal Talabani, leaders of the two biggest Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla groups.

Kurdish sources say the struggle has as much to do with the future leadership of the Kurdish resistance as with differences over the proposed autonomy pact.

Mr. Barzani, chief of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), has pressed for the front to meet and endorse the draft. Mr. Talabani, who leads the Patriotic Un-

ion of Kurdistan (PUK), opposes the accord in its present form and has been delaying a vote.

The autonomy agreement, if implemented, would give the Kurds broad political rights and administrative responsibilities.

Kurdish leaders spent four months negotiating with the Iraqi government after a Kurdish rebellion in March was crushed by the army.

The Kurdish negotiators say they cannot extract anything more from Baghdad than the terms now on offer.

Neither Mr. Barzani nor Mr. Talabani will comment directly on the draft, but Kurds close to the negotiating process report clear differences between the two long-time rivals.

Mr. Barzani maintains the Kurdish people are exhausted from their rebellion and subsequent flight to border mountains where tens of thousands remain stranded. The autonomy accord, however imperfect, will give Kurds time to recuperate and rebuild.

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Perez de Cuellar to pursue hostage diplomacy at U.N.

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar wound up three days of talks on the Middle East hostage crisis Wednesday, saying he remained confident at prospects for an exchange package.

He said he would continue pressure on all parties concerned for a deal involving 11 Western hostages, seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon and some 400 Arab detainees under Israeli control.

"There are reasons for being confident and I hope, with the contacts I will continue to have in New York, that I will make more and more progress."

The U.N. chief met Wednesday with Cornelio Sommaruga, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a possible intermediary in any exchange.

Amal militia chief Nabih Berri offered Wednesday to exchange the bodies of two Israeli servicemen for Arab prisoners held by an Israeli-backed militia in South Lebanon.

But Mr. Berri, a minister of state in the Lebanese government, reiterated his demand that Israel free 28 women from Khiam prison to verify their identity.

Israel demands proof of the fate of all seven of its servicemen missing in Lebanon before freeing any Arabs as part of U.N.-brokered swap.

"These two (Israeli) bodies are with us with their clothes and

weapons," Mr. Berri told Reuters in an interview at his home in the village of Msaleh, about 50 kilometres south of Beirut.

"Israel has known about this for more than two years because the subject of these bodies is a matter of contacts with the ICRC."

"The Israelis want (the ICRC) to examine these bodies before releasing the detainees we are asking for but I want the 28 women released and then the bodies can be examined," he said.

Asked if he would hand over the bodies, Mr. Berri said: "As for an exchange, it would have to be with all detainees in Khiam."

Information on the Israelis — or some step by Israel — seem to be the key to a prisoner swap. Earlier this month, pro-Iranian kidnappers freed two hostages, Briton John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy, demanding a similar gesture from Israel.

Israel appealed Wednesday to the Iranians to release information on a missing serviceman said to have been sold to them and held in Tehran.

Defence ministry spokesman Dan Naveh said it was the first time Amal had said "publicly and clearly that the navigator Ron Arad was transferred from its hands to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards."

Mr. Arad is the seventh Israeli serviceman to go missing in Lebanon since 1982.

No PLO-Hamas accord on PNC; contacts to continue

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two days of discussions between the Palestinian mainstream leadership and Muslim fundamentalists have not produced agreement on key disputes over the composition of the Palestine National Council (PNC), but both sides have agreed to continue contacts, representatives from the two sides said Wednesday.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, who led the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) delegation to the talks held Monday and Tuesday, said there was no shift in the Hamas' demand for either 40 per cent of all seats in the PNC, the Palestinian policy-making body, or for United Nations-supervised elections to the council from among Palestinians living inside and outside the occupied territories.

"We have no intention to shift from these two basic demands," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times. "The Islamic movement is strong enough to substantiate this position," he said.

"They (the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO) have the choice: they can either give Hamas a minimum of 40 per cent of seats in the PNC or agree to hold elections to the council among the six million Palestinians both outside and inside" the occupied territories, said Mr. Ghosheh, the Hamas representative of the Gaza-based Hamas.

"We agreed to keep all doors open for further discussions and will continue efforts to reach agreement," he added.

Mr. Ghosheh's comments implied that Hamas might be dropping one of its previous demands;

that the PLO drop its peace strategy adopted at the 1988 session of the PNC.

"The Islamic movement will definitely win a majority of PNC seats if elections were held today," he asserted. "This will give us enough influence to reverse any previous decision taken by the PNC," he said.

Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, the dominant political force in the occupied Gaza Strip, where over 70 per cent of residents are refugees from pre-1948 Palestine for whom any hypothetical peace settlement involving only the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will not mean much.

Most analysts believe that this realisation is behind most Gazans rallying behind the Muslim Brotherhood, which is calling for the liberation of "all of Palestine."

Recent elections for local organisations in the West Bank have also underlined the growing strength of the fundamentalists in the territory, traditionally a bastion of Palestinian nationalism represented by the PLO rather than religious ideology.

Tayseer Aroui, a member of the Palestinian Communist Party who was among the PLO delegation attending this week's talks in Amman, indicated that the mainstream leadership was ruling out meeting the Hamas demands but believed that common groups could be found with the fundamentalist group if only for the sake of Palestinian unity against the backdrop of the American-led efforts to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Abu Ali Mustafa, who represents the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the

PLO Executive Committee, headed the PLO team to this week's talks with Hamas. Others in the team included Sajj Salameh and Saleh Rafat of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hani Al Hassan, a political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"What is important at this crucial stage in the Palestinian struggle is unity among ourselves and this remains our objective throughout all contacts with our brothers in the Islamic movements," Mr. Aroui said.

According to Mr. Aroui, "most members of the PNC are elected officials of the various popular and professional Palestinian movements" and therefore the PLO leadership does not see any need for fresh elections to the council.

PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem has said that the organisation was willing to accept elections to the PNC if Israel permitted the process. "If any party can convince Israel to hold such elections it is more than welcome," Mr. Milhem said.

Mr. Aroui said he did not believe that a PNC session scheduled to be held in Algiers on Sept. 20 hinged on an agreement between the PLO leadership and Hamas. "It could be delayed for a few days, but no postponement can be expected," he said.

Independent Palestinian sources speculated that the PLO leadership might go ahead and convene the council without Hamas if no agreement was reached, but will keep the door open by issuing an invitation for the fundamentalists.

However, said a well-informed independent source, difficulties with Hamas are not the main



Ibrahim Ghosheh

problem faced by the PLO to convene the PNC.

"The entire Palestine liberation movement is at a crossroads and the PNC has to come with definite decisions on (the American-led) peace process as and when it is convened," noted the source.

Senior PLO officials, including Executive Committee members, have said that the leadership was in favour of referring the entire issue of the proposed Mideast conference in October and Palestinian participation in the purely to the PNC. The PLO is seeking basic guarantees from the United States that Israel will withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war and will freeze all settlement activities in the occupied territories.

"There cannot be any ambiguity over any decision taken by the PNC over the peace process as and when the council is convened," noted the independent source. "Proper ground has to be laid before holding a PNC session, and the sheer complexity of the issues involved does not make it any easier for the PLO leadership," added the source.

Soviet-Ethiopian brawl highlights Israeli gap

TEL AVIV (AP) — His head bandaged after a brawl with the Ethiopians, a Soviet immigrant pointed at some of the African children playing in a Jerusalem hotel lobby and said bitterly, "they should be put on buses and taken somewhere."

The fight Monday night between Soviet and Ethiopian Jews in this hotel, crammed with immigrants from the two communities, left four Soviets injured. And the violence highlighted the complexities Israel is facing as it struggles to cope with an influx of new arrivals.

The brawl made headlines in Israel because it added to a growing list of incidents: A fistfight between Russian immigrants and longtime Israeli residents; a kindergarten in suburban Tel Aviv that turned away two Ethiopian children; a backlash against locating trailer homes for immigrants in middle-class neighbourhoods.

The 650 Ethiopians at the Diplomat Hotel are among some 14,000 who were airlifted to the country last May. The 250 Soviet guests are among 290,000 who have flooded the country since mid-1989.

The Soviets and the Ethiopians embody some of the widest cultural rifts among Jewish immigrants to the country.

The corridors and staircases of the hotel swarm with Ethiopian mothers in white robes and Soviets in jogging suits. A melting pot, it is not.

"They put their dogs at us. They blow smoke into our faces. Yes, we are patient people, but if this continues we shall fight," said one young agitated Ethiopian, surrounded by friends.

"They pick on our children, they kick our dogs," said the injured Soviet, who identified himself only as Grant. "They dance till 3 a.m. and this is their playground. They wouldn't let anybody enter."

Like other Soviets, he spoke on condition his full identity not be used, fearing retribution.

The Ethiopians, who arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs, have all their needs taken care of by the government, which recognised their cultural shock in moving overnight from

an agrarian African economy to an industrial society.

The Soviets, on the other hand, are considered more adept at blending quickly into Israeli society. While they receive a financial grant upon arrival, they are expected to find work and housing more easily.

That, too, breeds resentment. "American volunteers would come in and hand out money ... to Ethiopian children," said Grant, a car mechanic from Yerevan. He pointed to the skateboard used by an Ethiopian child and said: "You know how much it costs?"

Monday's brawl apparently ensued from a quarrel between Soviet and Ethiopian youths two days earlier. The Soviets claim the Ethiopians fought the subsequent brawl with sticks and stones.

A Soviet who identified himself as Arkady, an engineer from Kharkov, said his wife was hit on the head while walking with their dog. Grant said he was hit on the head by a rock as he stepped out of the hotel.

Inside, the fights went out and the fighting continued within the hotel.

Meanwhile, police offered a different version of events, claiming dozens of Soviet immigrants, aided by friends from a nearby hotel, attacked the Ethiopians.

The Soviets deny the allegations. On Tuesday, private security guards patrolled the hotel to guard against further violence, and immigration officials were seeking a solution on the housing arrangement.

"I don't think we can live together," Grant said. The Soviets stress that there is nothing racist about their complaints.

Arkady, who has found a temporary construction job, said: "The Ethiopians, I have nothing against them. I told them: We have the same blood, we should live in peace," he said.

A young Ethiopian, Yitzhak Malisa, agreed, speaking on Israel TV, he said he regretted the brawl. "We are all new immigrants,"

Talabani accuses PKK of secret deal with Baghdad

SHAOLAWA, Iraq (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish leader has accused Kurdish separatists in Turkey of maintaining secret ties with the Iraqi government for the last three years.

Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told Reuters the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) had violated an informal pact among Kurdish groups not to have relations with a foreign government without informing Kurds in that country.

"Following the recent border troubles with Turkey we discovered that the PKK has been receiving arms, money and information from Baghdad for three years," said Talabani at his party headquarters in northern Iraq this week.

"Secret deals worry us. It was their duty to inform us." Turkish troops and planes hit PKK bases in northern Iraq earlier this month, killing about 35 guerrillas, and, according to Western relief workers, about 12 civilians.

Ankara has said the operation is over but Turkish soldiers remain in Iraqi territory. "They will not stay indefinitely," a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

After talks with Turkish officials this month, Mr. Talabani promised that Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas would not let Turkish Kurds use Iraqi territory to launch raids on Turkey.

"We never cross into Turkey for military purposes," he said. "The PKK must help us by observing the same courtesy. They must not damage our cause."

Iraqi Kurds are discussing a draft autonomy agreement after negotiations with Baghdad which covered control of the rugged Iraqi-Turkish border, long a haven for smugglers and rebels.

Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas have loosely controlled the border since Western troops set up havens in northern Iraq for Kurdish refugees after an abortive rebellion against Baghdad in March.

But they are not known to have clashed openly with PKK guerrillas whose Aug. 4 raid on a Turkish frontier post at Semdinli helped to trigger the Turkish cross-border attack.

Nine Turkish soldiers were killed and seven were captured in the raid on Semdinli.

Iraqi Kurds near the Iranian border said Iranian Kurds based in Iraq mounted a similar assault on Iranian Revolutionary Guards just inside Iran several weeks ago.

They said several Revolutionary Guards were killed and others were captured, though some were later released. The Iranian Kurdish guerrillas retreated to a stronghold in Sidakan Valley inside Iraq with their prisoners after the attack.

Legal loopholes allowed U.S. high-tech exports to Iran, Syria

By Marcy Gordon
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government has approved the sale of more than \$300 million in high-technology items to Iran and Syria in recent years, even though it says those countries support "terrorism," according to documents obtained by the Associated Press.

The Commerce Department used loopholes in federal regulations to legally approve the exports, some of which had potential military use.

From late 1987 through September 1990, U.S. companies got government permission to ship computers, aircraft parts, navigational, radar and communications equipment to Iran and Syria, according to the Commerce Department documents.

One of the licenses, granted in July 1990, allowed a major U.S. computer maker to sell \$3.9 million worth of equipment to Iran's Interior Ministry. The license said the computers "will be used for accounting and payroll applications and ... to perform a national census project."

Other licenses allowed sales to the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission of U.S. computers, oscilloscopes and film processing chemicals.

Oscilloscopes display electrical waves on fluorescent screens. Experts say they can potentially be used to develop missile guidance systems and to process data from nuclear weapons tests.

Federal law bans the sale of sensitive U.S. technology to Iran and Syria because they are on the State Department's list

of countries that support international terrorism. "Government officials are supposed to 'pressure denial' of such exports — but there are exceptions."

One recognises the "sanctity" of previous contracts, which the Commerce Department said it used to approve a range of high-tech exports.

The U.S. exporters to Iran and Syria included major computer makers, oil drilling companies, medical suppliers and other technology firms, the Commerce Department documents show.

The documents were provided to the AP on condition that individual company names not be used. The AP asked Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin project on Nuclear Arms Control, to examine the documents. The Washington-based project is funded by the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Milhollin and his associates, who are experts on dual-use technologies, identified the items on the list that had both civilian and military uses.

Commerce Department spokeswoman Mildred Cooper declined to comment on the export licenses, saying they involved confidential business information. Ms. Cooper also declined to provide information about technology exports to Iran or Syria since September 1990, the latest month for which data were obtained by the AP.

Iran has been on the "terrorist" list since January 1984. The State Department says it was for a general "pattern" of supporting "international terrorism." Syria went on the list

Israel seeks \$5.74 billion from Bonn

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel recently asked the German government for a loan and aid package totalling 10 billion marks (\$5.74 billion) to fund immigrant absorption, a prominent Israeli daily newspaper said Wednesday.

Haaretz newspaper said finance ministry managing director Shalom Zinger made the request in secret negotiations with the German government several weeks ago. It said the discussions were held in secret to avoid resistance by the German public.

Germany is facing a severe budget deficit due to unification and its aid commitments to the Soviet Union. German officials thought the request excessive but agreed to continue negotiations with the Israelis in September, Haaretz said.

Israel's finance ministry refused to comment on the report. In May, the German government said it would not consider financial aid until Israel's stance on the peace process and Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was clarified.

More than 300,000 Soviet immigrants have flooded to Israel since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev allowed the emigration beginning in 1989.

The new head of Israel's central bank, Jacob Frankel, while emphasising economic reforms must be made, said last week Israel also had to look abroad to finance the massive immigration because it could not produce all the funds itself.

Israel next week will officially ask the U.S. to guarantee loans worth \$2 billion, the first step in obtaining \$10 billion of U.S. loan guarantees in the next five years.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Soccer
18:30 Les Chevaliers de Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sports Programme
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Family Man
21:00 Outlaws
21:30 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

06:02 Fair
06:02 (Summer) Doha
12:37 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:10 Maghreb
20:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

TERMINALS Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 626266

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min/Max, temp. 17/28

Aqaba 23/36

Deserts 17/31

Jordan Valley 23/35

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Joseph Smith 770560
Dr. Khalid Mandel 743500
Dr. Hisham Abu Argoub 851122
Dr. Yousef Al Housseini 625478
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 677055
Nadroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Saad (—)
Al Shraas pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khamis Al Jaabari (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 653900

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642616

Al-Bashir Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642662

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musallam Hospital 667271/9

The Islamic, Abadi 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajira 771301/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marja 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602403/0

Amal Hospital 674153

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

the Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Beama Hospital (02)275535

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272715

Al Nafesa Hospital (02)271000

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:40 New Delhi (RJ)

18:15 Riyadh (RJ)

18:30 Doha (RJ)

22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Four Kurdish guerrillas killed

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Security forces killed four Kurdish insurgents in southeastern Turkey, the regional governor's office said Tuesday. Four Kurdish separatists, including two women, were killed in Siirt province Monday after they opened fire on troops patrolling the area, the governor's office said. Found on and near the bodies, it added, were four rifles, two hand grenades, two backpacks, ammunition and printed propaganda material. Meanwhile, in Sirnak province, security forces found the body of a Kurdish insurgent who apparently was killed when a booby trap he was handling blew up accidentally, according to the announcement. Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting since 1984 to set up an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey where the borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria converge. Turkey's southeastern border with Iraq had until recently been the focus of a massive international effort to sustain and repatriate 450,000 Iraqi Kurds who fled after a rebellion failed in March war. Earlier this month, Turkey launched a week-long operation against the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) insurgents' hideouts and training camps in northern Iraq.

U.S. troops to stay on in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. forces will remain in Kuwait for "a couple of months" longer than previously planned, though in smaller numbers, the Defence Department said Tuesday. The 11th Armoured Cavalry regiment, which has been in the emirate since mid-June, has begun returning to its home base in Germany, but it is being replaced by a U.S. army task force of about 1,500 soldiers, the Pentagon said. The first of the 3,700 members of the 11th Armoured Cavalry regiment began leaving Sunday, and lead elements of the task force arrived in Kuwait Monday, said Pete Williams, the chief Pentagon spokesman. The administration earlier had indicated that all U.S. combat forces would leave Kuwait by September, although it held out the possibility of extending the deployment. Mr. Williams said it was decided to keep about 1,500 soldiers in Kuwait "for a couple of months" beyond September because Kuwait had made slower-than-expected progress in reestablishing its own military forces. Also in Kuwait are about 165 members of the Army Corps of Engineers, who are helping the Kuwaiti government rebuild services and property damaged in the war. Mr. Williams said the administration expected to complete an agreement soon with Kuwait on U.S. use of Kuwait military installations and the permanent pre-positioning of

Handicraft centre students graduate

SALT (J.T.)—The first group of students graduated from the Salt Handicraft Training Centre on Wednesday and received diplomas from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The 22 graduates completed three years of training in several handicrafts and crafts.

After distributing the certificates, the Queen opened the exhibition displaying samples of the graduates' work in knitting and ceramics.

The Salt Handicrafts Training Centre was founded in 1987 with a \$2.1 million grant from the Italian government within the framework of the technical assistance agreement between Jordan and Italy.

The project aims at training a new generation of artisans, to create job opportunities for the youth, to revive Jordan's cultural and traditional heritage and to provide services to the local community.

Trade delegation visiting Austria, hopes to increase economic cooperation between the two countries

AMMAN (Petra)—A Jordanian trade delegation will visit Austria from Sept. 10 for talks on promoting trade ties with Jordan, according to an announcement Wednesday.

The delegation, which is to be led by Samir Darwazah, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordanian Exporters Society, will consist of 15 prominent Jordanian businessmen, representing various industries.

During the six-day visit, the delegation members will meet with Austrian businessmen and exporters unions and officials to discuss the prospects of launching joint ventures in Jordan which offer incentives and facilities to the foreign investors, who could benefit from Jordan's agreements with the European Community countries.

A statement by the Jordanian Exporters Society said that it is trying to seek new markets for the Kingdom's products in European countries. The statement said that the society will extend an invitation to Austrian businessmen to visit Jordan and examine the country's industries.

Israel says travel curbs eased

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Kanan said, "I hope Israel would continue to take positive steps similar to opening the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to ease the travel curbs."

Police: "reprimanded"

Israel's police chief has reprimanded two senior officers after Jewish militants burst in to the interrogation of two Palestinian leaders, security officials said Wednesday.

The police questioned Faisal Al-Husseini and Hani Ashrawi, who met on suspicion they met members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in London.

During the questioning at the police station in Tel Aviv, the two leaders were surrounded by Israeli soldiers. The police did not intervene.

Kurdish leaders meet on autonomy

(Continued from page 1)

The KDP leader tells his supporters that it is time to strike a deal with Baghdad. Kurds must ally with the Iraqi government and not rely on foreign powers to save them, he says.

Mr. Talabani has returned to Iraq after a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major in London. He said that the meeting was successful and that the Kurds are now drawing up a memorandum of understanding with the Iraqi government.

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Iran-Iraq ties

(Continued from page 1)

aims by showing sympathy and concern over the shrines of the Arab and Muslim leaders remember that the Iraqi people will not allow anyone to give charity."

Mr. Velayati said in an interview published in Tehran's Jomhuri Eslami daily Sunday that the decision on the Iraqi planes in Iran was up to the United Nations.

Iraq says 148 of its planes, including some of its best bombers and fighters, flew to Iran in January and February. Tehran says only 22 landed.

Mr. Velayati told Mr. Faisal Monday that relations could be normalised only after the remaining POWs were exchanged, borders were demarcated and Shatt Al-Arab was dredged.

Minister of industry and trade satisfied with results of visit to Iran

AMMAN (J.T.)—Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb has concluded talks with Iranian officials, describing the outcome of his visit to Iran as very good.



Ali Abul Ragheb

The minister, who was in Tehran since last Friday at the head of a Jordanian delegation, held discussions related to economic and trade ties between Jordan and Iran and signed a letter of understanding on commercial cooperation.

"I felt (there was a) favourable response to Jordan's bid for increased cooperation in trade and serious attempts on the part of Iran to promote ties between the Jordanian and Iranian people," said Mr. Abul Ragheb in a telephone conversation with Radio Jordan Wednesday.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said he discussed with the Iranian minister of industry scopes of cooperation in joint industrial ventures. Most of the talks were conducted with a team led by Iranian Minister of Commerce Abdul Hussein Vahhaj, who said that the two sides would exchange visits in the future to assess scopes of bilateral cooperation.

Both sides will organise trade exhibitions, participate in each other's international fairs and establish direct air routes between Amman and Tehran, the Iranian minister said.

According to Mr. Abul Ragheb, Iran will organise an international trade fair in a month and Jordan would be taking part in it. Jordan would be displaying products to acquaint with the Iranian markets about the Kingdom's industrial goods, he added.

The two sides have agreed to

set up a joint committee to meet periodically in Amman and Tehran to follow up on the implementation of agreements between the two sides, the minister said.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also said that the two sides agreed to promote cooperation among the construction and contracting sectors in the two countries and that tentative agreements were reached on the exportation of Jordanian fertilisers and phosphate to Iran.

The Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Jordan was asking for such items as vehicles, fish and tobacco and offering to sell Iran phosphate, industrial products and fertilisers. Before his departure to Tehran, Mr. Abul Ragheb said Iran had agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of fertilisers in 1991 in a \$65 million deal. He said talks in Tehran would cover the sale of phosphate and other products.

Lack of medicine behind increased deaths — Iraqi doctor

AMMAN (Petra)—President of the Iraqi Medical Association Raji Takriti, who is also chairman of the Iraqi chapter of the Arab Emergency Health Committee, Tuesday reported an increase in the number of deaths caused by typhoid, malaria fever, gastro-intestinal infection, dysentery and malaria.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, upon arrival in Amman, Dr. Takriti said the destruction of the basic health infrastructure in Iraq such as hospitals, health centres and strategic drug stores has placed an additional burden on the medical establishment and affected the quality of health services provided to people.

Dr. Takriti said that the economic embargo on Iraq bars the arrival into the country of basic food supplies, drugs, medical supplies and equipment and milk. He blamed the embargo and the ensuing shortages of food and medical supplies for the outbreak

of the diseases.

Dr. Takriti said he hoped to be able to visit Germany and take part in the annual general meeting of the International Physicians Union, "if he is granted an entry permit by the German government. He said that he would convey the Iraqi point of view on the current health situation resulting from the embargo on his country and brief the conference on the sufferings of the Iraqi people."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince watches army exercises

AMMAN (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, accompanied by Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, attended Wednesday a military exercise performed by one of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division Formations at its training site. The exercise included shooting selected targets with live ammunition with the support of the Royal Air Force fighters and gunships. At the end of the exercise, Prince Hassan thanked those who participated in it for the high level of performance they showed. The exercise was attended by several chief of staff assistants, the commander of the Royal Air Force, the inspector general, the commander of the Yemeni Air Defence Forces, who is currently visiting Jordan, and senior army officers.

Chief of Staff attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra)—The Jordanian Armed Forces chief of staff for intelligence affairs Wednesday attended a ceremony held at Muta University on the occasion of the graduation of a military training course for students at the university's Civil Wing. The graduation ceremony was also attended by the university vice-president for military affairs, deans of the scientific faculties, the commanders of the military and police faculties, several officials and relatives of the graduates.

Financial Committee approves laws

AMMAN (Petra)—The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee held a meeting Wednesday and approved the Supply Laws No. 28 and No. 32 for 1988/89 after amending several articles in them. The committee will meet next Sunday to study an appendix to the 1991 general budget.

Delegation visits Swaga Prison

AMMAN (Petra)—A delegation representing the prosecutors general office in Amman Wednesday visited the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in Swaga Prison where it inspected the conditions of prisoners there. The delegation will submit a detailed report on the visit to Prime Minister Taher Masi.

Elections to be monitored

AMMAN (Petra)—Minister of Social Development Awni Al-Bashir decided Wednesday to set up a committee to supervise the Jordanian Women's Federation elections which will start Sept. 3. The committee will be chaired by the ministry's Assistant Secretary General for Development Affairs Faisal Bashabsheh and will include Majdi Al Attar, a legal advisor at the ministry.

Royal Scientific Society agrees to study Jordan Valley contaminated water problem

AMMAN (J.T.)—The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will help control the treated water coming from the Khirbet Al-Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Zarqa River before it flows into the King Talal Dam and will also control the water in the reservoir behind that dam, according to an agreement signed Wednesday.

The agreement, which was signed with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), includes a study to determine the quality of treated water, the types of pollutants in the water, the source of these pollutants, the nature of the water in the dam, the changes to the water in the dam following the flow of the treated water into the reservoir and whether the water in the dam is useful for farming purposes or breeding of fish.

According to Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mutazz Al-Bilbeisi, the agreement will help control the quality of water and the source of its pollutants.

Dr. Hani Mulki, RSS president, said that Zarqa River basin, which is 3,300 square kilometres in area and inhabited by nearly 1.5 million people, contains 60 per cent of the industrial and developmental activities in the Kingdom.

Because of this, he said, water and the environment in the region ought to be under strict control and the RSS has the capacity and the expertise to help supervise it.

The RSS can design special filters to help ensure there is sufficient amounts of useful water for farming purposes, Dr. Mulki



Mutazz Al-Bilbeisi, secretary general of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hani Mulki, Royal Scientific Society president and Abdul Aziz Wishah, Jordan Valley Authority secretary general, sign an agreement to help deal with the contaminated water in the Zarqa River and the King Talal Dam (Petra photo)

al, sign an agreement to help deal with the contaminated water in the Zarqa River and the King Talal Dam (Petra photo)

JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah said the contaminated water in the dam resulted from its different sources and the pollutants thrown into the Zarqa River.

The King Talal Dam water is used to irrigate 60,000 dunums of land in the valley, Dr. Wishah said.

The agreement signed with the RSS Wednesday is important since it will define the types and sources of pollutants and the degree of salinity in the water, Dr. Wishah said.

contract with the RSS, the latter submits quarterly reports providing comprehensive studies on the quality of water and offering recommendations on ways to deal with water issues, including controls to be taken to improve the water quality, according to Dr. Wishah. He added that JD 20,000 a year is to be paid to the RSS to carry out the study.

Dr. Wishah also said that during 1991, the JVA discovered some indications of the increased presence of chemical substances in the King Talal water.

Study on renovation of Salt district complete; financing remains biggest problem

By Maha Addasi
Special To The Jordan Times

AMMAN—The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has completed a study on the Central Business District (CBD) of Salt to define and assess the extent of the old area in the region that should be preserved and redeveloped to stimulate economic activity in the area.

The study, which took two and a half years to complete, was commissioned by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) and financed by SDC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and has multiple purposes, according to an informed source at the RSS.

"The study, which is presented in three volumes, has the purpose of defining the exact areas in Salt that need renovating in order to rejuvenate and redevelop them so that something can be done to reverse the action of decay and neglect to these old buildings," said Nabil Aqileh, an engineer who is the head of the Design and Consultations Division at the RSS and one of two team leaders who worked on the study.

"In other words, we want to give the old houses and old souk a face lift and do whatever is necessary to recapture the unique traditional atmosphere and heritage of the buildings in Salt, some of which date back to 1860," Mr. Aqileh said.

The study, in the long-term, will benefit the area's tourism, industry because there will be a tourist attraction in Salt. Visitors will probably spend half-day in the region before flocking to Petra and Aqaba, where accommodations are scarce, according to informed sources at the Ministry of Tourism.

"Once the recommendations proposed by the study are implemented, Salt promises to be a tourist attraction with a different angle," said Ramwa Khatib, an architect who worked on the study. "Tourists come to Jordan to see dead civilisations like Petra and Jerash, but if this project is implemented tourists will be seeing a living civilisation."

Ms. Ramwa added that the recommendations in the study can be grouped into the implementation, institutional and financial categories.

According to Mr. Aqileh, there are many touristic aspects taken into consideration in the study on Salt. "The study proposes to create more uses for the old merchants' buildings in Salt. For example, the Abu Jaber building, once owned by a merchant who lived in Salt, will be turned into a heritage centre. This will be a museum with a new twist. Things like puppet shows and audio-visual displays may be part of this museum," Mr. Aqileh said.

The study proposes that the old houses should be renovated in order that people can live in them again, Ms. Khatib said.

Still, financing the ambitious project remains a problem according to an RSS source. "We still do not know when the proposed study will be enacted," said Dr. Seyfeddin Muaz, the director of the Building Research Centre at RSS and the supervising project manager for the Salt study.

According to Mr. Aqileh, there has been little interest in investing in the Salt area.

"We need to bring about a change in image and attitude so that private investors can see a new function for Old Salt as an attractive place to live, work and invest in," Mr. Aqileh said.

Jordan briefs Islamic organisation on efforts to deal with returnees

AMMAN (Petra)—Jordan has participated in the meetings of the World Islamic Higher Council for Relief and submitted a report on the Kingdom's activities and services to the displaced people from the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is secretary general of the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Society, took part in the meetings in Cairo and delivered a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the council's President Sheikh Jad Al-Haq.

In his message to Sheikh Al-Haq, the Crown Prince outlined Jordan's role in providing relief to the hundreds of thousands of people flooding the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis, Dr. Abbadi said.

Nearly one million displaced persons arrived in Jordan seeking refuge from the Gulf region following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

In his message, the Crown Prince also referred to the present influx of Jordanian and

Palestinian expatriates evicted from Kuwait, where they had lived most of their lives. The message explained that 270,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, including 70,000 children under five years of age, have now returned to the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan's message outlined the activities conducted by the Jordanian Hashemite Society together with the other relief and voluntary organisations and non-governmental groups in providing assistance to the returnees. The Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Society welcomes cooperation with world Islamic organisations to offer assistance to the needy refugees, Prince Hassan said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rubb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salam Jamil Al-Nouri at Alia Art Gallery.

Jordan Times

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Water has to flow

THE ARTIFICIAL river whose first phase Libya has just completed is indeed giant in size and expenditure. Its sheer length, nearly 2,000 kilometres crossing the Libyan desert from the south to the north, makes it the longest artificial water tributary ever constructed by man. The \$14 billion spent on it makes it also a mega economic project that aims to provide the country with a basic infrastructure for the present and future. Given the critical role of water in any country's development, be it agricultural or industrial, such a venture as the Libyan river can go a long way to put the country on the right path towards a balanced development. The project is already dubbed as a stroke of technical genius. Hopefully it will be also an economic success in spite of its possible negative side-effects.

There has been some concern about the sovereignty issue, namely over the fossil waters that the project aims to tap. Other concerns have been expressed about the environmental implications of such a grand scheme. Sceptics meanwhile have voiced reservations about spending so much money when the quantity of water in the lakes deep beneath the Libyan desert may not justify the size of the investment. Yet every mammoth project of the size of the artificial Libyan river is bound to cause ripples across the world some of which may or may not be motivated by a genuine concern for the overall welfare or interest of this and other Arab countries. There will always be the chronic doubt of whether the billions spent on it would be money well spent from an overall Arab point of view. What if Sudan's agricultural potential was tapped in favour of providing the Arab countries with a more definite strategic food security instead of gambling on the unknown is one important question that has been asked once and again.

This and other legitimate questions will always haunt even the best and most solid projects. On balance, however, the man-made river is a futuristic infrastructure that stands to serve not only Libya but also its neighbours with hitherto untapped and unexploited water wealth. As there is no future for any people without water, and in the knowledge that older civilisations were built where there was abundance of water, future of the Arabs and their civilisation and strength will hinge, inter alia, on ensuring the availability of water resources. Libya has taken a giant step in that direction and hopefully has set the stage for a brighter future for itself and its neighbouring Arab countries. Once this Libyan model has proven its strength and viability, the other Arab countries should draw the necessary conclusions and work towards closer cooperation and investment in achieving self-sufficiency in water and food supplies.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that Western Europe would have restless nights following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence of conflicts in other European countries. The paper said that the only beneficiary of a weak Europe is the United States which is now intent on dismembering the Soviet empire and stirring conflicts in Eastern Europe as it watches and makes ready for the next moves, probably towards China and Japan, the remaining great powers in the world. The disturbances are emerging as the Western European nations are preparing to unify by the beginning of 1992 when conservatives and unionists would clash over unity issues, which could lead to regional conflicts, the paper noted. All these developments are brewing while Washington is watching and planning the next moves that would best serve its interests world-wide, the paper added. The paper advised the Western European nations to refrain from recognising the emerging states in Eastern Europe because such recognition has no value at all and could bring further burdens to them when they start offering assistance and helping the East European countries to cope with the West. The paper said that spending on the poor nations of Eastern Europe is bound to weaken the Western countries, leaving the arena to the United States to embark on new adventures around the world. The paper said that Europe's role in the new world order seems to be that of a weak entity, subdued by the American power.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said Wednesday that His Majesty King Hussein's current tour of European countries to explain the Arab views with regard to the peace process is timely and of paramount importance. The King is making the visit in the course of Jordan's ongoing efforts to mobilise support for the Arab causes in the international arena and his visits to Austria, France and Britain are bound to contribute most positively towards achieving that goal, the paper said. It is important now to brief the Europeans on the current situation and to urge Western statesmen to take speedy action to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that would restore the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, the paper said. The King's address before the European Parliament in Strasbourg will shed more light on the current situation and will focus attention on the need for the coming peace conference to achieve concrete results so that the Middle East can enjoy peace and security, the paper continued. It said that Jordan, which has spared no effort since the occupation of Arab land in presenting the Arab views to the world, is now once again taking the lead in stimulating serious efforts designed to bring about a durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Things Jordanians need to avoid

By Safwan Bataineh

1) CLOSING the garage door while the engine is running.
Over the past few years, many Muslim fundamentalists, disillusioned socialists, and conspiracy theorists have sought to quarantine Jordan and preserve it in its unfinished form. Tourism was deemed a hotbed of espionage; tourists a bunch of spies, ceaselessly stripping the country of its sovereignty with every click of the camera. Foreign investments were reduced to nothing more than instruments for Zionist infiltration. And, of course, all occurrences on earth were but the products of secretive American designs (recently we learnt from someone who should have known better that even the failed putsch in the Soviet Union was an American plot designed to elevate the stature of Boris Yeltsin).

These champions of isolationism want Jordanians to head for the mountain tops where, in the barren and desolate wilderness, their bodies and minds can be enfeebled into a dervish state of inane docility. However, the latter day berms fail to explain the glaring contradiction between their aims and the universal nature of their teachings, not to mention their inexplicable willingness to accept foreign financing and instructions into their own organisations. Could it be that they have an exclusive agency for cerebral imports?

Clearly, Jordan cannot afford such isolationist luxuries. Short on almost everything but human potential and dependent on foreign markets for its surplus of goods and labour, Jordan needs to open up more, not less, to the outside world and the free exchange of ideas, goods and capital.

So, while the engine of progress blasts on, consuming the fuel of honest labour and ejecting the fumes of ugly pollution, could someone please keep the garage door open?

2) Exploring Antarctica with a broken compass.
The global race for economic advantage has entered a new and uncharted territory. A developing nation needs to produce a rapid rate of advancement just to stay in competition for a slice of the proverbial pie. Moreover, this advancement has to be constant, innovative, and accurate the first time around. A rather tall order by all accounts. Yet, an honest and serious attempt has to be made in pursuit.

Jordan has been blessed by a visionary monarchy and a hard working populace. Both have produced vast gains for the country in spite of a political and economic elite mired in conservatism and inertia; an elite whose main achievement is an archaic and regressive system designed to preserve the privileges of the status quo and hinder free and fair competition.

Today, this system remains largely intact (except for minor reforms forced upon an unconvinced bureaucracy by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank). Will the new generation politicians have the wherewithal and moral courage to reshape the system and effect the necessary changes required for a responsive and self-regenerative economy?

The journey of a thousand miles has to start sometime. So let's fix the compass and start.

3) Firing potshots from a glass bunker.
Never in the history of mankind have so many people accomplished so little by talking so much: this is how Winston Churchill might have described the Arab and Jordanian state of affairs during and after August 1990. In Jordan, many people, including members of the legislature and the press corps, a few Cabinet ministers, and all seven of my hitherto non-political aunts, threw caution to the wind and lent expression to raw and unfathomable passion. Some, in my perception, took total leave

of their senses. But, not wishing to pour salt over open wounds, I shall not dwell on that unfortunate period.

However, Jordanians, especially those who assume positions of responsibility, must review and analyse their words and deeds during the Gulf crisis and come up with an honest answer for one question: Did I further the interests of Jordan by it all? For a nation that fails to heed the lessons of history is bound to repeat past mistakes. And sure enough, before you could say the word "putch", a flood of unrestrained sensationalism came gushing through the popular press, wishing the Soviet peoples continued happiness under military dictatorship. Luckily, the speedy collapse of the coup preempted similar messages of goodwill from the Parliament.

I do not purport to offer explanations for these intermittent flights of fancy, for I really do not understand. All I know is that if we continue to subject other peoples to barrages of harsh and righteous raving while neglecting to put our own house in order we will eventually become a vulnerable punching bag for other nations to take a swipe at.

Burying our heads in righteous sands while receiving continuous body blows will not do any more. The country is in desperate need to break away from its current isolation, the cumulative product of unfortunate circumstances, misunderstandings and miscommunications, and to radically alter its outlook in order to promote friendships and the smooth interaction with the newly emergent world order.

Straight talk will rarely miss the mark. But bent logic and circular arguments will, like a boomerang, make an ugly hissing sound, vanish in thin air for a while, and reappear from nowhere to smack you right on the nose.

Coup opens way for deep U.S.-Soviet nuclear cuts — analysts

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The bungled Moscow coup and death of Soviet communist power have sharply reduced the prospect of nuclear war and opened the way for further deep cuts in U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals, defence analysts said on Monday.

Experts said the chance of an accidental, maverick or terrorist attack from a restive and fragmented Soviet Union is very low although there are no guarantees against an incident.

Some predicted in interviews with Reuters that the ascent of democracy in Moscow and Sunday's announced purge of old-line military officers have ripened chances for joint safeguards against maverick attack and for cutting nuclear missiles and bombs on each side to fewer than 1,000.

That would go far beyond the recently negotiated Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which would cut the strategic arsenals by one-third to

about 9,000 U.S. warheads and bombs and 7,000 Soviet weapons.

"It's hard to tell what the Soviet nuclear situation was during the coup despite subsequent assurances by leaders on both sides. But both sides know control over Soviet arms will be better if the number is cut," said Edward Luttwak of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Only a few Soviet intercontinental missiles are stationed outside the Russian republic, headed by reformer Boris Yeltsin, and those arms appear to be firmly in control of Moscow, not breakaway governments or military factions, senior Pentagon officials told Reuters on Monday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said most Soviet nuclear weapons in the Baltic region were removed from that area even before the coup because of political unrest in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Private experts John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists and Lawrence Korb of the

Brookings Institution, on Monday suggested that the total number of nuclear bombs and missiles controlled by Washington and Moscow could be cut to as few as 500 in the next decade.

"You don't have to worry about the Baltic republics wanting any nuclear missiles," said Mr.

Korb, a former assistant defence secretary.

"If anything, they and other breakaway Soviet states want to get rid of whatever nuclear stuff they have because that kind of thing makes them a target more than it enhances their stability."

In Moscow, Russian Vice Pres-

ident Alexander Rutskoi said on Monday that the Russian Republic is seeking a veto over the Soviet Union's use of nuclear weapons.

He said the republic wanted such a veto to prevent a repetition of last week's coup in which hardliners ousted President

Mikhail Gorbachev for three days and took control of the country's nuclear forces during that time.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on Sunday the United States was confident there had been no threat of a Soviet nuclear strike during the brief coup. He declined to be specific.

LETTERS

Where are the managers?

To the Editor:

AT A time when Jordan is struggling to come out of an economic depression we have placed high hopes on the capability of the tourism industry to both help kick-start the economy and absorb some of the unemployment. While the intentions behind this plan are commendable, I cannot say as much of the manpower assigned to it.

In the past twelve months I have had the opportunity of making use of just about all the hotels, restaurants and tourist sites of the Kingdom and what I have witnessed in several cases made me formulate the question: "Where are the managers?"

One case in point is Aqaba which happens to be my favourite place to spend leisure time. A stay in one of Aqaba's beach front hotels is one sleeping-bag short of camping. Dealing with staff proves to be mind-boggling and having an edible meal means going to the local chicken-tikka shop where not only their limited menu is thoroughly available but it is worth the money paid.

Here are a few incidents that happened to me personally:
At the beginning of November 1990 I went to spend a week in Aqaba and I made a reservation accordingly in one of the hotels. At this time Aqaba had been deserted not only by tourists but, it seemed, also by the locals. Upon my arrival, the receptionist proceeded to issue me a room which turned out to be a "prefab" on the fourth floor, overlooking the parking lot with a dozen dead cockroaches in a bathroom where I could only step from the sink to the shower sideways and there was an obnoxious smell of sewer in the whole "room."

I checked out of that hotel but I did not tell why I was doing so. I assumed that my presence, or the lack thereof, did not make a difference to me. I opted to leave the beach-front for the Alcazar where the receptionist was more than happy to provide a room which was, in comparison, worth the money I paid for it.
But back then it was the crisis.
More recently with some friends we organised a trip to Wadi Rum as we do on a regular basis. Our trips usually include one or more nights in Aqaba. This time we had made a three-room reservation ahead of time at one of Aqaba's beach-front hotels because knowing that it was a national holiday, rooms would be scarce.

Upon arrival to the hotel, on a Friday morning, we were told very nicely that check-out time being twelve noon, our rooms were not yet available. My friends and I proceeded to have an early lunch waiting for the rooms: noon was only about one hour away. Having had lunch we would have liked to be able to sign the check on one of our rooms. To that end one of us went to the reception to find out which rooms would ultimately be assigned to us. The time was roughly a quarter to one when the receptionist evidently thought he did not need our business and took it upon himself to let us know that hotel staff were "...too busy..." to look after our needs and that we "...should look for another hotel..." because the receptionists were "...going crazy..."

Our rooms were not ready until a quarter past three that day and the receptionist would not accept that we sleep three in a room. It seems they had run out of both towels and sheets, they were short staffed and altogether were having a bad day.

When we had a word with the gentleman who seemed to be in charge he readily ordered his subordinates that drinks on the house be served to us, little caring what was going to be served, which turned out to be a concoction of orange powder and water, with too much powder.

However, true enough to its tradition even lunch at this hotel turned out to be an ordeal more than once.

On the day of our arrival, while waiting for our rooms, we had ordered lunch at about quarter past eleven. The poor waiter who took our order was to be "hawled out" for having taken a lunch order 45 minutes ahead of the hotel established lunch time. Not knowing what to do, and thinking we had not understood what was going on, the waiter came back to the table trying to talk us into having some salads and mazzas hoping that it would stall our appetite for three quarters of an hour. But as it happened we did not want mazzas and we finally got our food fifty minutes and a couple of complaints later. In this same restaurant my friends and I had to argue with one of the waiters that even though he might think that Greek salads are not supposed to be served with dressing, we would still like some. We eventually got it our way and the waiter came back with a dish of... mayonnaise.

In another restaurant, one waiter would not serve us an "American breakfast" which we asked for with a ham and cheese omelette. According to the waiter, the American breakfast only includes an omelette and when we offered to pay extra for the ham and cheese he was still reluctant because, as he said, "how am I to calculate the price of ham and cheese extras."

In still another restaurant another waiter categorically refused to prepare a red-snapper on the grill. He came short of saying that grilling red-snapper was against his religion. He wanted to give it to me fried. He also imposed on our group a pitcher of

"Margarita." And he was telling me how much fish I should order. I am the guest, I am paying, I like to be advised not told.

But I like Aqaba, it is still my favourite spot in Jordan, diving is great, the sea wonderful, the climate exquisite and the mountains at sun-set just breathtaking. However, I cannot help but think that the standard and quality of service in Aqaba makes it a one-time destination for the much coveted foreign tourist and very frustrating for the much needed national tourist. Why is it that something so beautiful must be so disorganised and allowed to be ruled by a policy of "laissez-faire." Where are the managers?, the experienced people whose task is to insure that a guest will come back knowing that his/her expectations will be satisfied? Where are the people that are supposed to provide their subordinates with enough information to interact with guests, the people that should be up front in case the need for their presence arises?

And Aqaba is not an isolated case.

In July 1991, some friends and I drove to the Dead Sea and went to the hot water springs. After about two hours at the springs we were so hot that we decided we'd like to pamper ourselves and enjoy a few drinks while swimming. There being only one place where one can swim and drink at the same time, either in a pool or in the sea itself, we proceeded to the establishment.

Upon our arrival, the receptionist quietly collected the entry fee, consisting of JD 6 per person, which entitles the customer to the use of the sea, beach, beach-bar, fresh-water swimming pool, pool-bar and restaurant. Wouldn't you know it! When we descended, not only was the swimming pool empty (because they were finally cleaning it), but the beach-bar was closed. So here I am, an open bar, about 200 yards from the beach, and not a waiter in sight. Not only that, but it being four o'clock in the afternoon it was too late to have lunch, but too early for dinner.

I demanded to see the general manager who, I was told, was in Lebanon and his replacement was in Amman. However, the financial manager was in the hotel, if I wished to speak to him.

The receptionist could not understand why I wanted my money back, whereas I could not understand why he did not understand. In a further trip to the Dead Sea my friends obstinately wanted to go and have lunch at the hotel (we were within the right time frame), however, they soon changed their minds when the same receptionist insisted we pay the JD 6 non-refundable entrance fee just to use the restaurant.

The state of affairs of the service industry in the Kingdom is surpassed in gravity only by the amount of litter found at such natural attraction sites like the shores of the Dead Sea, Ma'in, Debbin Park and several other sites, but mostly Ma'in.

With my usual group of friends we backpacked the hot springs from the Dead Sea to Ma'in and just a few hundred yards before reaching the hotel we were walking in what seemed to be a discharge until we left the stream for the paved road. But even then, things did not improve. Litter included half watermelons, shoes (lots and lots), construction material, plastic, cans, dolls, rags and so on.

In conclusion, I would like to point out to those responsible for the wellbeing of the tourism infrastructure, that the lack of competition in places like Aqaba, the Dead Sea and Petra, is no excuse for the quality of service in these same areas. At a time when the peace process seems likelier than ever before, we are faced with the prospect of renewed tourist influx. This is the time to shape up things and to get on the bandwagon, so that when the day comes we won't be caught off-guard and find ourselves running after it. The object is to present an image that appeals to the foreign tourist and that will make him come back several times. The object is to present an image that appeals to the national tourist that will make him proud of what the country has to offer both him and whole world. The object is for us to become models and leaders in the region in terms of efficiency, creativity and service.

Let's clean up our shores, our menu-folders, our hotel-rooms and the national parks.

Let's have the managers up front to form and inform staff, let them pass on their competence. Also, let the managers be seen and take responsibility for the upkeep of the environment and room for improvement.

Guide Roman
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Amman - Jordan

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

West understands Jordan's problems, but when will the Kingdom get the aid?

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As Jordan grapples with the mounting problems posed by the massive flow of returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states, Western and Japanese governments say the Kingdom's appeal for assistance to help it face the situation is under consideration.

At the same time, spokesmen for the concerned countries' missions in Jordan say the call, issued by His Majesty King Hussein during a meeting earlier this month, was mostly taken in a political context rather than an appeal for direct economic assistance.

"His Majesty's remarks were seen more against a political backdrop than economic or financial," said a senior French source. "Our government is of course very sympathetic to Jordan in the position (the Kingdom) finds itself in," he added.

The King's appeal came after thousands of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates started returning from Kuwait as a result of a de facto expulsion policy adopted by the emirate in the form of making life unbearable for the expatriates

through arbitrary detentions and trials, termination of employment contracts and refusal to admit expatriate children in schools.

The King denounced the Kuwaiti moves as violation of human rights and called on foreign governments to intervene and seek an end to the Kuwaiti measures as well as help Jordan shoulder the financial strain imposed on it by the massive increase in its population.

Western diplomats said the Jordanian request was transmitted to their respective governments immediately for action. Some of the missions in Amman said they had started consultations with Jordanian officials on specifics.

Most diplomats said their governments were willing to help Jordan cope with the situation, and that the process could be made much easier if the Jordanian government presented specific requests detailing nature and form of assistance the Kingdom requires.

"His Majesty's call for assistance has been conveyed to Washington and the matter is under consideration,"

said a spokesman for the American embassy in Amman.

The spokesman recalled that Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly, in a satellite interview last week, had referred to the appeal and said that he expected Jordan "will be the beneficiary of (international) assistance."

That appeared mostly to reflect the present status of the Jordanian call to most other governments, including members of the European Community (EC) and Japan which have extended financial assistance to the Kingdom to help it tackle the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis.

"The British government has taken careful note of what His Majesty had to say and understands the serious implications for Jordan" in the return of massive numbers of expatriates, said Henry Hogger of the British embassy.

"We have already established a dialogue with the (Returnee Welfare Committee) to pinpoint specific areas of Jordan's needs," he said.

Japanese Ambassador Taduki Nonoyama said he had forwarded the Jordanian call to Tokyo. "I am unable

to say at this time what the outcome of the study will be," he said.

Mathias Meyer, councillor at the German mission, said it was unlikely that Bonn, which has extended JD 330 million in aid to Jordan in 1990 and 1991, will send any more cash assistance to Jordan this year.

"The (Bonn) government understands the Jordanian position and is willing to help," said Mr. Meyer. "But I believe that such assistance will be channelled through international organisations" involved in trying to help the returnees.

An official at the European Community (EC) delegation in Amman said he had not received any Jordanian request outlining the areas of need.

A senior Jordanian official said the government was following up the Kingdom's appeal with the EC headquarters in Brussels.

Western diplomats rejected suggestions that the crisis in the Soviet Union might have had a delaying effect on European and Japanese decisions vis-a-vis the Jordanian request.

"These are two different issues; the Jordanian request

is purely humanitarian and something very well understood," said a senior official at a European mission in Amman. "There is no reason that the Soviet development should have any bearing on Jordan's appeal for help to solve a major humanitarian problem," the official added.

While none of the diplomatic representatives could affirm that assistance would definitely be on its way to Jordan, most of them expressed optimism that their governments would respond positively to the Kingdom's appeal.

"There is no doubt that Jordan requires urgent help, and this has been accepted by most countries," said a European diplomat.

"The governments have also taken note of Jordan's record of having handled the flow of hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq following the Iraqi invasion (of Kuwait)," the diplomat noted.

At the same time, said another Western diplomat, the process could be made easier if Jordan will specifically mention areas and nature of the assistance it requires.

"My experience is that international donors will be able to respond speedily and determine the volume and nature of assistance they can offer if specific requests are made," said the diplomat, who preferred anonymity.

Expectations are that most governments will likely extend in-kind support to Jordan in the form of commodities such as equipment for schools and health centres etc.

A spokesman for the Italian embassy said the Rome government was considering the Jordanian call positively but was awaiting detailed, specific requests of the nature and form of assistance the Kingdom needs.

An economic adviser at a Western mission said the Jordanian appeal was definitely expected to have a positive impact on the Kingdom's efforts to have part of its foreign debts written off.

"I'd say that the Jordanian government should concentrate on this area and step up its contacts for debt relief," he said. "Most government creditors are very understanding of the Jordanian position and debt relief is one way they could extend assistance to the Kingdom."



His Majesty King Hussein greets returnees from Kuwait at Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo)

According to economic analysts, Jordan needs at least \$1 billion in the short term to accommodate the returnees and provide basic education and health services of an acceptable level. Long-term projections range between \$7 billion and \$10 billion to absorb all the returnees into the productive sector through offering jobs — involving a comprehensive solution to the chronic unemployment situation in the Kingdom.

Even bowling requires killer instinct

By Jon Miller

MANILA — Arianne Cerdana opens her front door with a tired smile. Her feisty 44-year-old daughter, Ashley, tags along to see who is calling. When Cerdana leads her guest inside and clicks on an electric fan, she walks with a pronounced limp.

"It's my knee," she explains with a look of resignation. "I hurt it in an exhibition. I still don't know how serious it is, but it looks like it might keep me from going to Singapore next month." Could it threaten her career? "I hope not," she says with a shrug.

Arianne Cerdana is clearly not one to whine about her misfortunes. Mental toughness was what won her the women's bowling title three years ago in the Seoul Olympics. And mental toughness has been her ticket through a real-world sequel to that storybook event. With a round, pleasant face and an easy smile, she doesn't look much like an athlete, let alone an Olympic champion. At 29 she is a little on the heavy side and shorter than she looks in pictures. But the walls and shelves of her living room tell an impressive story. Every surface is covered with cups, plaques, medals, photographs and trophies.

There is a bronze medal from the Goodwill Games in the U.S. in 1990, a silver medal from the World Games in Germany in 1989, and trophies from her victories in the Masters in Hong Kong in 1985, the Kent All-Stars in Malaysia in 1989 and the President's Cup in Indonesia in 1989 and 1991. There are trophies for each of the 37 national titles she has won since she started bowling in earnest in 1981.

And then there is the most

prized possession, the gold medal from Seoul, which she keeps hidden in another room. Bowling, riding a surge of popularity in Asia, was an exhibition sport in the 1988 games, making its first Olympic appearance since the 1940s. The medal is different than the medals for regular Olympic events, Cerdana explains, turning it over in her hand. Then she apologises for its wrinkled cloth necklace. "They used it on TV, and this is the way they returned it," she says. "I suppose I should iron it."

Cerdana was not the best-known woman bowler from the Philippines, let alone the tournament favourite, when she went to Korea, but the timing was perfect. Spurred by a rivalry with her friend Bong Garcia, and ticked off by reporters who snubbed her when she arrived in Seoul, she summoned the singlemindedness that she first discovered as a child when bowling on weekends with her uncles and cousins. "In international tournaments, I had always come in second place, third place," she recalls. "Always the bridesmaid, never the bride. I wanted a big break. I wanted to make a name for myself."

Her victory, over highly favoured bowlers from Australia and America, made her an instant hero. Her face was splashed on magazine covers, she appeared on television, she met the Philippines' president, she was invited to exhibitions overseas. Her picture was hung in the bowling hall of fame in the United States. In a country desperate for good news, she was touted by editorial writers as an example of what Filipinos could do if they set their mind to it.

But the thrill of victory soon gave way to the reality of being an amateur athlete in a place where attaining celebrity status means you might be able to save enough to buy a car. There were endorsements and sponsorships, but little security. Then a series of disasters rocked the country: A coup attempt, an earthquake, a drought, typhoons. Money became short, people became cautious. Although her game continued to improve, fulfillment — emotional and economic — was more elusive. She flirted with the idea of giving up.

"People started to expect me to win all the time," she recalls. "But you can't win all the time. It's not like in athletics, where you have a time, and you know that if you run this time you're going to win. Bowling is different. In certain tournaments, even if I bowl my average of 197, I can't win."

She also suffered from overexposure: Too many tournaments, too much travel. "I felt I was becoming stale," she says. "In 1989 I didn't join the eliminations for the Philippine team. I didn't join the Asian team ... you have to keep that kill feeling, the need to win every tournament you enter. There was a time when all I was looking at was the end of the tournament. So I decided to lay low, and wait until I was in a fighting moon again."

She says the time is now right. She is satisfied with family life, although she does plan to go to the U.S. for six months to try her luck against stiffer competition. Her lifestyle has hardly changed since she started winning — she still lives in her mother's house — but her income allows her new comforts. Her husband has just taken his dentistry exam. "Bowling for me now is a livelihood more than anything else," she says. "When you win, it's more pay than working from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in an office."

On gets the sense that Cerdana's passion for bowling is at bottom a passion for self-sufficiency. She says she has been addicted to the sport since she was 9, but only after she started a family did she really feel the need to win. "When I got married and had



Arianne Cerdana

a kid, my attitude toward bowling changed," she says. "When I was single, I didn't need money so badly. Then all of a sudden I had a family to take care of. I had to earn. So I took bowling more seriously. I knew I had to win all the time. It was a must situation, it was survival. And that improved my mental game."

While she is technically good, she says her mental game is what sets her apart. "The physical skill — you develop that when you're just starting to bowl," she explains. "Once you develop that muscle memory, everything goes automatically. The thing that helps you in big tournaments is your mental game, how you react under pressure, how you perform on crucial shots."

Cerdana is quick to point out that her average, which is at least 20 points below what the best professional women bowlers are rolling on the American circuit, is largely a function of the poor quality of Asian lanes. "In

bowling, it's you, the pins, the ball — but the lane is the question mark," she says. "Most of the European and American bowlers have higher averages than Asian bowlers. That's because their lane conditions are far better. When American or European bowlers come to Asia, they have a hard time. And when Asian bowlers go to America or Europe, their scores go up." Cerdana, who has bowled a perfect 300 game in practice and a 287 in competition, averaged around 210 on the excellent lanes in Seoul.

She puts in about three hours a day when preparing for a tournament, but she's happy to play with friends just for fun. Yet when she steps up to the line in competition, she becomes antisocial. "It's a matter of how eager you are to win, how much winning means to you," she says. "Wanting isn't enough. You have to be desperate" — World News Link.

Egypt's smokers dump cigarettes for the shisha

By John West
Reuters

CAIRO — From five-star hotel terraces to alleyway cafes, many of Cairo's legions of smokers are dropping Western-introduced cigarettes and returning to the traditional waterpipe — but for very different reasons.

"It's fantasy," said Ibrahim Shabin, manager of a smart waterfront restaurant at the Gezira Sheraton Hotel where a meal can cost 100 Egyptian pounds (\$33), as much as some civil servants earn in a month.

"We've always had shisha (waterpipes), but it's become the fashion in the past two years. Everyone wants to be traditional," he added.

Below on the terrace, Abdul Salah Youssef Al Shabi, an industrialist, puffs contemplatively on a pipe and looks out towards floodlit fountains in the middle of the Nile.

"It's according to our custom," he said. "That's how merchants learnt what was going on in the souk (market). They sat down with a shisha and tea, enquired after each other's health, how much the price of gold was, how much silver."

He tipped the coal-boy, who deftly packs hot embers on the bulb of the pipe, five pounds (\$1.50).

Many of Cairo's more expensive restaurants and cafes now offer waterpipes to the city's smart set, along with mint tea and traditional Arab delicacies.

In the city centre, the trend may be the same but the rationale is very different.

"It's cheaper because I smoke less," said Mahmoud Hassan, 38, squatting in front of his shanty. "A box of shisha tobacco costs me the 35 piastres (10 cents) and lasts two or three days. If I have a packet of cigarettes in my pocket, it's gone that day."

Prices for imported Western cigarettes have risen about 70 per cent in the last three years, to more than three pounds (\$1) per pack of 20. Local brands are no longer considered cheap by

ordinary Egyptians at 1.35 pounds (40 cents).

As in other developing countries, Egyptian smokers are increasingly aware of the health risks and surveys indicate tobacco use is declining.

But the habit is still much more prevalent than in the more health-conscious West. Workers smoke in offices, banks, when riding their bicycles in the city's chaotic traffic, and even in restaurant kitchens.

Shisha waterpipes, sometimes called Narguils or hubbly-bubbles, work in much the same way as Western tobacco pipes. By sucking on a wooden mouthpiece to a snake-like tube often one metre long, the smoker draws tobacco burnt by live coals down from a bulb through a decorated bottle full of water and into his mouth.

Shisha adepts consider the elaborate preparation: and total attention required part of its relaxing effect. Shisha, they say, is for contempla-

tion, not stimulation. "If I smoke one cigarette my head's destroyed," said a pipe smoker as he played cards in a street alley cafe. "The shisha is calming."

But shisha's rich and poor adherents, whether drawn by tradition or pushed by their pockets, are deluded if they think the traditional Arab method of smoking is healthier, a chest disease specialist says.

"A lot of people have shifted to this method of smoking but the risks are not lighter, they're different," said Doctor Sherif Omar, consultant to the World Health Organisation and a leading anti-smoking campaigner.

"The filter provided by the water is not complete, and shared pipes may spread tuberculosis," Dr. Omar added.

"Also, the waterpipe requires stronger breathing which can lead to emphysema," he said.



Shopkeepers in Cairo city centre spend their free time playing backgammon and smoke the shisha.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

There is only one success — to be able to spend your life in your own way.

Christopher Morley, U.S. writer (1890-1957)

When you have got a thing where you want it, it is a good thing to leave it where it is.

Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965)

The rotten apple spoils his companion.

Benjamin Franklin, U.S. statesman (1706-1790)

Modern languages

By Maha Addasi

Hi, goodbye and all the swear words that come in between is almost all what people learn of a new language. They may learn the numbers too, up to ten, that is, and then two minutes later remember only the first five.

So that is all you retain of a language. Ask someone who knows.

Embarking on a new project of learning a third language I equipped myself with all the tapes, books, and dictionaries necessary and then registered in an "intensive: Learn a language in 30 days" course. But I was no better when I finished the course than when I started. It was bonjour, au revoir and all the swear words which I do not credit the language course for learning. That was of my own doing. Call it dedication, call it homework. Call it what you wish but the point remains that I did not learn much besides that.

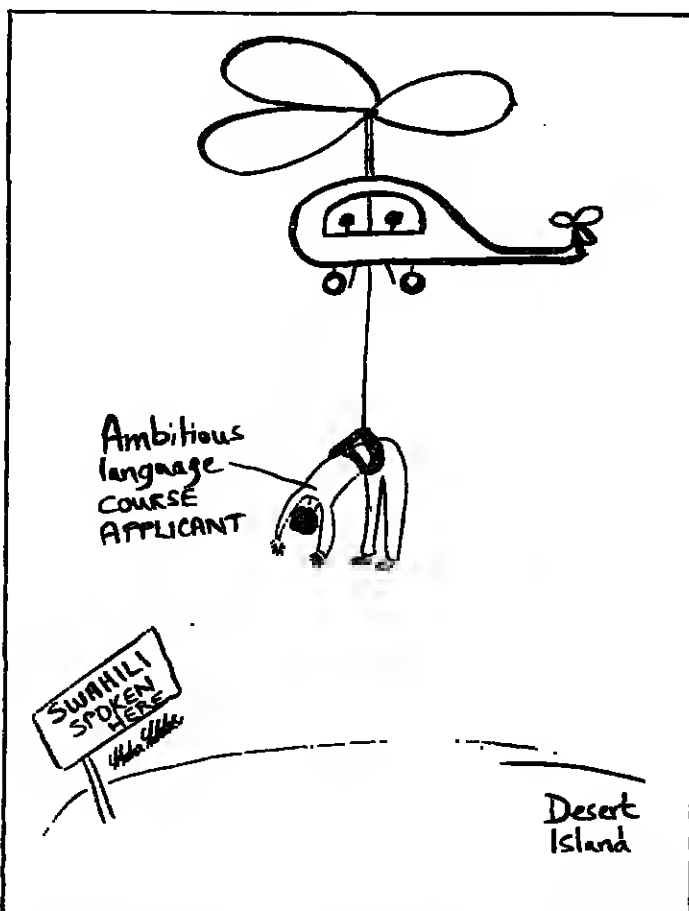
Of course "they" told us to watch programmes in French and avoid reading subtitles. "practise with people in the course, and read." All to no avail.

However I have arrived at a conclusion. Unless the course includes a section where I am dropped from a helicopter on a desert island where the inhabitants spoke French and the situation is a matter of life and death where I would be crawling for food... Only then will I be able to benefit from the language course. Only then would I learn. I just love working under pressure.

I always wondered why people asked me that gem of a question about my mother tongue when I was abroad. "How many letters do you have in your alphabet?" I used to think who even cares? What kind of question is that? But closely ensuing that question came my personal favourite of a question that went something like: "Do you know all your alphabets?"

Only now do I realise that those people were mentally applying the process of elimination when asking these questions. Actually what it boiled down to was that if I said the alphabets have a number of letters greater than 26 it meant the language is more difficult than English. Now I'm looking out for a language that has 12 letters in the alphabets so that I can learn it and attribute that as a third language.

But then, why a third language? Why not perfect our second language — English. There is definitely room for improvement. Not for me alone but for many people in Jordan. Driving in some parts of Amman I realise that



people name their stores, their pride and glory with names like. "Snob, Snob, Snob, Snob." I don't know what the store sells, I don't know what it specialises in (unless the name is any indication). I do not think I want to know. Then there is the "House of Nuts." I don't care whether it sells nuts and candy, I am not taking any risks by stepping in there. And then restaurant menus with "Bnana esblitez and a sponge" meaning banana split and sponge cake.

We definitely have a language problem. What we need is to brush up on our second language. We are almost there. We just need intensive 30 day courses. We definitely do not need helicopters.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 29

1935 — Queen Astrid of Belgium is killed in car accident in Switzerland.

1686 — Danish warships are scuttled at Copenhagen in World War II uprising against Nazis.

1945 — U.S. General Douglas MacArthur leaves Manila for Japan to accept Japanese surrender.

1960 — Jordan's premier Hazza' Al Majali is assassinated.

1965 — U.S. astronauts L. Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad make safe landing in Atlantic after record eight-day orbit around Earth.

1972 — North and South Korean Red Cross officials meet in North Korea openly for first time to discuss reunifying divided families.

1978 — China's Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng completes visit to Eastern Europe, symbolising historic break with China's traditional isolation.

1987 — Two bombs explode five minutes apart in crowded main square of Syrian-policed Tripoli in Lebanon, killing three people and wounding 25.

1988 — Two Soviets and one Afghan blast off from a Central Asian space centre to join cosmonauts seeking an endurance record aboard an orbiting Soviet space station.

1990 — Armenia's parliament puts the republic under emergency rule, bans a nationalist paramilitary group and blocks roads around the capital after string of attacks leaves Armenian legislator dead.

Friday, Aug. 30

30 B.C. — Cleopatra of Egypt commits suicide by letting asp bite her.

1914 — German forces take Amiens in France during World War I.

1916 — Turkey declares war on Russia; Paul Von Hindenburg is named German chief of general staff.

1928 — Independence of India League is formed in India.

1944 — Russian forces enter Bucharest, Romania, in World War II.

1960 — East Germany imposes partial blockade of West Berlin.

1966 — China's Red Guards, their ranks swelled to half a million, demonstrate outside Soviet embassy in

Peking for second straight day.

1981 — Iran's president and prime minister are killed when bomb explodes in government offices in Tehran.

1989 — Latvian Communist Party leadership debates splitting off from Communist Party of Soviet Union.

Saturday, Aug. 31

1910 — Austria-Russian convention on Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet is signed, which aligns Russia with Britain and France against central powers.

1918 — Bolshevik troops attack British embassy in Petrograd, Russia.

1922 — Czech-Serb-Croat alliance is signed at Marienbad.

1923 — Italy occupies Corfu in Greece.

1939 — Attempts by French Premier Daladier and British Prime Minister Chamberlain to negotiate with Adolf Hitler of Germany fail.

1942 — German General Rommel renews offensive against British at Alam Halfa in North Africa in World War II but is driven back to original lines.

1957 — Independence of federation of Malaya goes into effect.

1962 — Trinidad and Tobago become independent nation within British Commonwealth.

1980 — Polish labour leaders sign agreements with Communist government establishing for first time in a Soviet-Block nation the rights to strike and to establish free trade unions.

1987 — Government and opposition officials in South Korea agree on revising constitution to clear way for direct presidential elections and other reforms.

1990 — 250 militant Armenian nationalists give up their weapons after the republic's parliament declares a state of emergency.

Sunday, Sept. 1

1939 — Germany invades Poland, leading to start of World War II.

1945 — Japan surrenders aboard the battle ship USS Missouri at end of World War II.

1950 — North Korean troops launch attack across Maktong River in Korea.

1961 — United Nations breaks off relations with

Katanga government, and heavy fighting in Elizabethville and Jadoville results from U.N. attempt to arrest members of government.

1962 — Singapore votes to join Federation of Malaysia.

1968 — Relief officials in Iran say more than 8,000 people are known to have perished in series of earthquakes.

1969 — Army stages coup in Libya, monarchy is deposed and Libyan Arab Republic is proclaimed.

1986 — Nicaragua, at summit of Non-Aligned nations in Zimbabwe, accuses United States of aggression and intervention.

1987 — Two black men are hanged in Pretoria, South Africa, for multiple killing committed during outbreak of anti-apartheid violence.

1990 — Two Germanys sign a treaty that provides the blueprint for merging two countries into one.

Monday, Sept. 2

1666 — Great fire of London starts and in five days virtually destroys city, including St. Paul's Cathedral.

1773 — Warren Hastings, first British governor-general of India, forms alliance with state of Oudh for campaign against the Maharanthas.

1861 — Prussia concludes commercial treaty with China at Tientsin.

1865 — Maori War in New Zealand ends when governor issues peace proclamation.

1866 — Crete, after long discontent against Turkish authority, revolts and merges with Greece.

1877 — Satsuma rebellion is suppressed in Japan.

1898 — British forces under Horatio Kitchener defeat Dervishes at Omdurman, Khartoum, Sudan.

1926 — Italy's treaty with Yemen begins Italian attempts to dominate east coast of Red Sea.

1945 — Independent Vietnam Republic is proclaimed by Ho Chi Minh, who becomes president.

1947 — American republics sign treaty of mutual assistance at Rio De Janeiro.

1949 — United Nations commission warns of danger of civil war in Korea.

1962 — Soviet Union agrees to send arms to Cuba; Western Iran is shattered by earthquake, and 200 towns and villages are reported des-

troyed.

1986 — Death toll confirmed at 79, with 319 others reported missing in sinking of Soviet passenger liner in Black Sea.

1987 — "Tanker war" in Gulf escalates, with Iraq claiming its jet planes hit three ships while Iran raids five others.

1989 — Riot police arrest more than 400 anti-apartheid protesters in downtown Cape Town, South Africa.

1990 — Saudi defence minister says his country cannot be used as jumping-off point for attack on Iraq.

Tuesday, Sept. 3

1759 — Expulsion of Roman Catholic Jesuits begins in Portugal.

1783 — Britain, France, Spain and United States sign peace of Versailles, officially ending revolutionary war.

1791 — French constitution is passed by National Assembly, making France a constitutional monarchy.

1879 — Afghanistan troops massacre British legation at Kabul.

1904 — Japan defeats Russian forces at Liaoyang in China.

1913 — City of Nanking falls to Chinese revolutionary forces under Yuan Shih-Kai.

1939 — Britain and France declare war on Germany; Winston Churchill becomes first lord of admiralty in Britain; Germans sink "Athenia" off Ireland.

1943 — Allied forces invade Italy in World War II.

1945 — Singapore is returned to British control after being occupied by Japanese since 1942.

1962 — Katanga government accepts U.N. Secretary-General U Thant's plan for Congolese reunification.

1973 — Cholera outbreak in Italy spreads.

1976 — U.S. Viking II spacecraft lands on Mars.

1986 — South Africa's government reimposes order prohibiting journalists from reporting actions of security forces.

1989 — Thousands of blacks march and wage at "whites only" beach in nationwide defiance campaign in South Africa.

1990 — Russian President Boris Yeltsin unveils plan for Soviet republics to take control of their own economies.

By The Associated Press

Morning sun

By E. Yaghi

In the early 1800's, deep in the jungles of Africa where owls screeched, pigeons cooed and exotic monkeys sing on vines, dwelled a young man named Addae, which in African means morning sun.

Addae was given this name simply because he was born at dawn just as the African sun began to rise above the dark forests and puffs of black smoke from the breakfast fire entered the small hut where an angry newborn protested his birth amidst the scent of barbecued lamb. As he grew up, Addae had never known any place other than his native home. Perhaps his abode may have been simple and his life bare compared to a citizen of luxury from a first world country in the twentieth century, but as far as he was concerned, he could not have been happier. Among different tribal villages people said, "Addae is one of best hunters and has already proven his bravery. He is deft with a spear and knows every inch of our area like the back of his hand. Maybe one day he will be chief of his tribe!"

Addae's mother indeed seemed proud of her oldest son. Soon a marriage contract would have to be arranged. "Any woman will be lucky to be married to Addae," his mother would brag. "But not just any woman will do. Addae must have the best and finest bride available."

Oh, this young warrior was filled with confidence. One late afternoon, Addae strutted through the forest elated with self-satisfaction. His father had warned him not to go out alone due to spreading rumours of bands of greedy white men who were constantly trying to trap victims from nearby villages for the slave trade. Addae couldn't imagine people selling human beings like animals for slavery. But he knew he was invincible and brave. How many times had he more than proved a match for any contestant to his strength? If anybody tried to bother him he would show them that they were dealing with the wrong person. So it happened. A group of white thieves pounced on him while he was walking. He was strong, but no match for their weapons, their numbers or their ruthless cruelty. His captors threw a briar net over him. He roared like a lion. They beat him with clubs until he nearly lost consciousness. One of the group cursed him, another spat on him, and a third said, "Shut up! It's better if you give up now or you'll never make it to America. You'll be dead before you arrive. We'll throw your body into the ocean as shark bait!"

Addae couldn't understand them and fought wildly. Eventually he lost hope. Bound, he boarded a slave ship where he was forced to live worse than an animal the entire trip across the ocean. Many Africans died, but Addae was strong and stubborn. He survived. Some inner sense told him that he would never again see his mother, father, friends or tribe again. He wondered if as a Muslim he would even be permitted to pray, fast and practice Islam in a place of heathens. Only time would tell.

And so, it passed that Addae was brought to the shores of America, the land of the free, and sold into slavery. He worked hard on a plantation that wasn't his but belonged to white people who were cruel and hateful. His name was changed and to the white man he was no longer Addae, Morning Sun, but Tom Welsh, his last name taken from Robert Welsh the man who owned him. Whenever Addae prayed, he was flogged. When he tried to fast, he was force

fed. The overseer of the plantation was harsh and endeavoured to make sure that all slaves lost their identity and religion as a means of subduing them. He treated them as beasts, making their existence desolate, miserable and degrading. Only in death would they find peace and liberty. Subsequently, he married a female slave who had been born and raised in America. She never accepted Islam and at first thought her husband to be rough and slightly uncivilised. She refused to raise her children as Muslims, but rather, raised them as slave Christians, where Christianity was used as a weapon to make the slaves think their souls were saved, yet they were never thought of as fellow humans and would never be allowed to attend white churches. Ultimately, the plantation where Addae worked, was broken up and sold. All the slaves were sold too. Addae was separated from his wife and children and never saw them again either. Later on just before he died, he said, "I'm finally free, no one can take my freedom away ever again. I'm still a Muslim too. I swear that there is no God but one and Mohammad is his prophet!"

Addae's wife never forgot her husband and never let her children forget him either. They grew up always remembering their father and the fact that he had come from Africa. They were proud of their heritage and they remembered his name and in turn taught their children the name of the African slave and what it meant but his grandchildren carried the surname Welsh. Many generations later, one man by the name of William Welsh, a direct descendant of Addae, born free in Georgia, accepted Islam. William had been a postman for many years and was growing old. He wanted to retire and move to Florida where he had some Muslim friends. He discovered Islam was the one religion he could adapt to, for in it he was equal with everybody. He prayed next to white men. He sat with them during the sermons. He was one of them, not an inferior being or thought of as a long ago slave. He finally found his identity and began to study his family history. He remembered hearing the story as a child of the great African slave named Addae. He found out that Addae had been a Muslim. William was that final point in a circle that had begun in the forests and jungles of Africa and now ended with him. Islam was back in Addae's family. William's sons soon accepted Islam too and William changed his first name to Shamseddin which in Arabic means Sun of the faith. William chose Jihad as his family name to symbolise his own struggle and Addae's religious fight in a foreign country to keep his religion and his dignity while a slave, owned by a strange people who had no mercy or compassion.

Now Shamseddin Jihad lives in Florida among his Muslim friends. He is very happy, free, equal in his religion with all men and owns the greatest gift on earth — his faith. His sons are committed to Da'wa, or spreading Islam among the Afro-Americans. Sometimes Shamseddin thinks of Addae, the young warrior who was captured and brought as a slave to America from his village and he smiles, for he knows that Addae would be very proud knowing that at last some of his descendants returned to Islam. Shamseddin performed his own social and cultural reversion and he ceased to imitate the people who had enslaved Addae. Islam became a lifestyle compatible to the former William Welsh.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 29

8:30 The Family Man
When Allison realises that someone stole the money, she runs away from home for fear of her dad, thus complicating the matter.

9:10 Outlaws
New Orleans

It is another exciting anti-crime adventure in another place — this time in New Orleans.

10:00 News in English
10:20 Movie Of The Week
All The Brothers Were Valiant

Starring: Robert Taylor and Stewart Granger.

Friday, Aug. 30

8:30 Night Court
The Battling Bailiff

Paul is losing, gradually, the meaning of his life; his colleagues convince him to take up the profession of boxing at night, and obviously, this doesn't do it for him, either.

Sunday, Sept. 1

8:30 The Simpsons
9:10 Documentary — National Geographic Explorer

9:10 Forever Green.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Simon and Simon

Disappearance of Harry
Harry disappears after cooperating with the Simon brothers, in an attempt to incriminate the gang of smugglers.

Saturday, Aug. 31

8:30 Kate And Allie

Kate Quits
Starring: Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin

9:00 Encounter
9:30 Classical Music
10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The Catered Affair
Starring: Bette Davis, Ernest Borgnine, Debbie Reynolds and Rod Taylor

Sunday, Sept. 1

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Documentary — National Geographic Explorer

Search for Battleship Bismark

The search for Nazi Germany's most dangerous battleship in World War II, the Bismark, which was sunk by the British Royal Navy.

10:00 News in English
10:20 Hunter
Second Sight

Monday, Sept. 2

8:30 Surgical Spirit

Close To The Edge
Sheila invents a new style of surgery without much bloodshed. Does she succeed?

9:10 Murder She Wrote
A Little Night Work

A famous publisher is murdered in a luxury hotel following a fund raises. Jessica, who attended the event, is staying in the hotel. She helps the police solve the mystery.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Over My Dead Body

Tuesday, Sept. 3

8:30 Perfect Strangers

A Catered Affair

Balki, the talented chef, faces a funny predicament when his friend Larry books him for another party in addition to the one he has to cater for.

8:55 Museums In Jordan

9:10 Our House

The Haunting
Starring: Wilford Brimley, Deirdre Hall, Shannen Doherty and Chad Allen

10:00 News in English

10:20 Colombo

Colombo investigates the murder of the trustee of a military academy.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

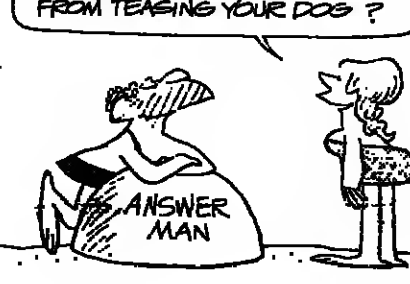
8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 Route To The Sea
Junks Are Sailing

For the Chinese this part on the south east coast of China was the starting place for a long and perilous journey, while for Westerners it was the stretching of their journey.

B.C.

WHEN SHOULD YOU REFRAIN FROM TEASING YOUR DOG?



WHEN HE STARTS TO LOOK LIKE DON KING



Volker Schlöndorff and the universalistic cinema

Stories told with the camera

By Herbert Helzelmann

NÜRNBERG — Another year at the cinema with the same familiar story. This year, as every year in recent times, the top box-office hits are American productions, including *Pretty Woman* and *Dancing With the Wolves*. But, stuck in the middle of these listings, is a modest European film by a German director. It registered runs of fourteen weeks and more in many German cities. The production, *Homo Faber*, is the film version of the book by Max Frisch with the same title. Its director, Volker Schlöndorff.

The film even made it into the top ten in total German cinema viewerships last year in Germany. This achievement has turned attention once again to Schlöndorff, the German director who lives in America, who has also made American films and who wants to make more American films.

Schlöndorff, almost a "household name" on the international film scene, did not go bust in the United States like other European directors have. Like Wim Wenders, for instance, or Louis Malle. They, too, wanted to make their version of the American dream come true. They, too, heard the call of Hollywood and heeded it. But they returned home again, their projects

gone amiss, their commercial and/or artistic failures in their suitcase. So, what makes Schlöndorff so different? How was it possible for him to become one of the very few German directors to succeed on the international marketplace?

What did he do to coax the Americans into awarding him an Oscar for his film rendition of the Günter Grass novel *The Tin Drum* in 1980? Perhaps, the answer is quite simple after all, perhaps it lies in the great "weakness" of Schlöndorff, a shortcoming that turns out to be a strong point: Schlöndorff is not a director with a distinct artistic style, his films aren't one-of-a-kind, and they don't branch out into dark mysteries nor are they couched in a complex narrative style. That makes him understandable and consumable internationally.

It's the same recipe that makes American films so successful all over the world. Schlöndorff himself defined it as follows: "Everything must be clear all the time. That's what makes American cinema naturally understood the world over, because it doesn't say: 'Okay, we leave the rest to the viewer.' You're forced to articulate things with much more clarity. You can't rely on your intuition and expect to produce art." That's something the Americans are almost ter-

rified of.

Perhaps Schlöndorff is just the man to satisfy this requirement, as he has never seen himself as an "auteur" in the sense of the French "Nouvelle Vague" or the German "Jungfilm" group that emerged after 1965, even though he learned his trade in France. He had actually gone there on a wave of romanticism and not because he was buoyed by a sense of artistic mission.

Born in Wiesbaden in 1939 as the son of a physician, Schlöndorff relates: "My two brothers are doctors, and everything predestined me to become a doctor or a lawyer. On the other hand, there's nothing more natural than for a burgher's son to want to go to the circus. That's what seized me. 'The circus is dead,' they said; well then, I'll do something with film. 'Film in Germany is dead,' they said; well, then, I'll go to France."

"That was in 1955, when I was 16, and I actually went to Paris and stayed there for ten years. At first, in boarding school, then as law student (film-making scholarships weren't available), right up to the government examination. In the meantime, a diligent visitor at the cinémathèque (three films a day); finally, positions as direction assistant with Jean-Pierre Melville, Alain Resnais, and Louis

Malle."

Film as circus substitute

From the outset, this concept predisposed Schlöndorff towards a popular approach to the medium, with artistic aspirations of secondary significance. As a result, from the beginning — his first film was in 1965 — his film authorship came, at most, to an involvement in writing the screenplay. He didn't see himself as a narrator.

Schlöndorff is the renderer into film, and of some of the world's best literature. He made his directorial debut with the film version of a short story by Robert Musil *The Young Törless*. His third film tackled Kleist in Michael Kohlhaas (1967-68).

When wide-screen acclaim failed to materialize, he shifted to television. Schlöndorff's television production of Brecht's first stage piece, *Baal*, had Werner Fassbinder, then at the outset of his career, in the title role. Produced in 1969, it is one of Schlöndorff's finest creations.

The Handmaid, and Max Frisch (*Homo Faber*).

After three English-language authors, all American co-productions — Schlöndorff has again done a German-language original in a European production. But even this creation has an American touch, with Sam Shepard, American playwright and film writer (noted for the screenplay of *Paris, Texas*, produced by Wim Wenders) cast in the lead role. Shepard performed with such transcontinental cool that his director couldn't bring himself to burdening him with the nearness of death foreseen by novelist Max Frisch. *Faber's* terminal cancer is absent from the film.

Scholars of the literary word will, doubtless, have this and much else to quibble about it all of Schlöndorff's productions. The language of Günter Grass's *Tin Drum*, almost baroque in its richness, might have fared differently under a film director more inclined to verbal sumptuousness. A director like Fellini might have been more suited to filming Günter Grass's *The Tin Drum*. The French, too, surely weren't all too happy to see a German director adapt a classic of their tongue (*Un Amour De Swann*) to the silver screen.

And yet, Schlöndorff suc-



A scene from the film *Homo Faber*. The German director Volker Schlöndorff rendered the novel by Switzerland's Max Frisch with a touch a "transcontinental cool."

as one film critic put it, Schlöndorff is considered the "German representative of the universalistic film."

ceeds in introducing a universally understood screen language in all these literary renditions, a cinematic Esperanto, which — out of necessity — had to level the excesses of the literary, had to convert them into straight-forward imagery to achieve international understanding and possibly to prompt not a few of the viewers to read the corresponding book.

The Schlöndorff rendition of *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*, where both Heinrich Böll and Schlöndorff

ventured their rage at the sleazy practices of various German tabloids, certainly proved a very auspicious combination. The two sort of met at the level of outraged triviality, a fortunate coincidence.

Schlöndorff, thus, has become the leading German representative of universalistic cinema. Literary and cineastic purists may fault its facelessness, but such an exercise appears superfluous in an age where the global intermeshing of the media marks a major challenge to the value

of regional artistic reputations.

Schlöndorff takes the camera to tell literary stories; and he succeeds in conveying appreciation to the general viewer. Americans like it, and Germans also, as the *Homo Faber* success story in the midst of the U.S. blockbusters from Hollywood reveals. And to have a German success author in the ranks of the international continues to be a unique phenomenon, too unique for the critics to thumb their noses at it in press.

Irish novelist knows what it is like to suffer

By Paul Majendie

Reuter

BELFAST — Best-selling novelist Michelle Hutchison certainly does write at first hand about the violence in Northern Ireland.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) crippled her policeman husband, gunmen shot at her family. They had to move house, they will always be potential targets. Amidst the mayhem, the quietly determined young wife sat down to write what one critic called "one of the best thriller novels ever to come out of Northern Ireland."

Summary Justice was a fast-paced and violent thriller about a policeman investigating paramilitary racketeers. He is betrayed by a police colleague. The IRA kills his wife and children. He goes on the warpath, seeking revenge.

"It was therapy. It transformed real life in to a fictionalised scene. It was more comforting than facing up to reality," Ms. Hutchison said of her debut novel.

Ms. Hutchison, who also finds time to bring of three young children, ran a home for abandoned animals, and work on job creation projects in the community, seemed almost bemused by its success.

"Summary Justice" was number one for six weeks in Northern Ireland and I out-sold Jackie Collins and Wilbur Smith."

Her second novel *Dieback*, which tells the tale of an IRA assassin hired by the KGB, has now been published.

Ms. Hutchison writes under the pen-name S.J. Michaels. Many critics thought by the style and content of the books that she was a man.

"I have certainly grown up in a man's world," she concedes.

In a quietly dispassionate voice Ms. Hutchison tells of her husband's police career was shattered and his life became a nightmare.

Her husband Peter was shot on the way to a

Belfast police station in 1976.

"He was shot in the arm, chest and throat. He lost part of his lung and one of his vocal chords. Surgeons said he wouldn't live. He is a very determined person and fought his way back."

"He was carrying intelligence files and one of them was a picture of the guy who shot him. He later died on hunger strike in prison. The attack was too elaborate, too well-planned. It was not hit and run. There had to have been information from inside the RUC (Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary)."

"He headed up an anti-terrorist unit. He had to be 100 per cent fit. In 1985 he fell off a wall when in hot pursuit of a suspected terrorist. He was disabled out of the force."

"I was coming back with my mother-in-law and three children after visiting Peter in the hospital. Gunmen shot at the car. Thankfully nobody was injured."

The family had to be moved to a safe house which was staked out in case the IRA struck again.

"We were used as bait by the security forces without being forewarned. That is why I have a cynical view of governments. They were quite willing to set us up."

"In the end the IRA never struck and we were moved out of the area. Peter is still a potential target. We have to live with that."

Ms. Hutchison has seen both sides of the sectarian divide. "I was born a West Belfast Catholic and became a Presbyterian at 14. I married an officer from the local police station in (the nationalist ghetto) of West Belfast. People don't forget that."

With enough fact to feed her fiction for many novels to come, she is pessimistic about the future for Northern Ireland.

"Personally I don't see any solution. Nobody seems to want one. We should have a ceasefire, a good fight and get it out of the system. People constantly back off and let the pot simmer and never boil over."

Director Alan Parker shows his other side

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press

DUBLIN — Alan Parker may be known for his brash, angry, often controversial movies, but his new film from Ireland may surprise viewers with its humour and compassion.

"The commitments" shows another side of the 47-year-old Parker, who says this film comes closest to his own experience of growing up in the working class.

"There are aspects of me which I think people don't know," the English director

of *Midnight Express* and *Mississippi Burning* said one morning in a Dublin hotel suite.

Based on a novel by Roddy Doyle, the \$12 million production takes a fast-paced, funny look at working-class Dubliners who form a rock group. *The Commitments*, dedicated to what they call "Dublin soul."

Worshipful of such black American legends as Smokey Robinson, James Brown and Otis Redding, *The Commitments* haunts the Dublin clubs, making a name for themselves with hard-driving

renditions of such songs as *Try A Little Tenderness*.

"The Irish are the blacks of Europe," explains the group's founder and manager, Jimmy (Robert Arkins). Before long, the group is adopting Brown's *Motto*, "I'm black and I'm proud," as well as his music.

"It's not about usurping black music or culture," said Parker. "It's about identifying with it."

The movie bears a superficial resemblance to *Fame*, Parker's hit 1980 movie tracing the lives of several students at New York's High

School for Performing Arts. But the director prefers to discuss the differences.

"To me, the basic metaphor in *Fame* was the American dream," said Parker. "It was an American movie steeped in the concept of success in the American sense — built into every single American is that you have the right to be successful."

With *The Commitments*, he said, "it's the opposite. It's O.K. not to be successful. In fact if these kids do get successful, they'll put one another down."

The director said *The Commitments*, despite being thoroughly Irish, marked a return to his own working-class roots in England.

"This is the closest film to the life I know," said Parker, the only child of North Londoners who lived in low-income housing.

"My parents were very much against me doing anything that actually interfered with the status quo that they had," recalled Parker, citing "the terrible English phrase my mother used to use all the time of, 'you're getting ideas above your station.'"

"The thing about a permanent underclass is not that it's imposed from above; it's imposed from below, too."

Parker said his aim was "to be as truthful as possible to the spirit of the book. The beauty of the book, and the thing I loved about it, was the language."

He was not at all concerned that audiences might have trouble with the thickly accented Dublin speech. "In the first five minutes, the language is like music, and you become attuned to that music. Rather than it being a barrier, it becomes a strength."

Weren't the producers worried? "I have complete control," he replied, "so I didn't take any notice." Whatever its critical fate, *The Commitments* looks to be free of the controversy that besets virtually every Parker movie.

His most recent film, the flop *Come See The Paradise*, starring Dennis Quaid, raised eyebrows by grafting a sentimental love story onto the painful reality of Japanese internment camps in the United States during World War II.

His 1989 *Mississippi Burning*, which was nominated for seven Academy Awards including one for Parker's direction, kept commentators buzzing with multiple charges of inaccurately portraying the civil rights movement.

"There's a big difference between 'inaccurate' and 'dishonest,'" said Parker. "Mississippi Burning was a fiction from the very beginning." It wasn't a documentary on the civil rights struggle.

Parker's first film was the gangster musical spoof *Bugsy Malone* (1976), starring a teenage Jodie Foster. Since

then, every film up to *The Commitments* — with the exception of *Pink Floyd, The Wall* (1982) — has dealt with American topics or American characters, including a young American imprisoned in Turkey for drug smuggling in *Midnight Express* (1978) and the steamy thriller, *Angel Heart* (1987).

Parker left school at 18 and began his career in advertising, turning to feature films with *Bugsy Malone* when his early television scripts were rejected.

"They used to come back with a big rubber stamp on them saying 'parochial, parochial, parochial,'" he said. "I wrote *Bugsy* as a reaction to that frustration of people saying, 'why are you still writing about a council flat in Islington?'"

Now, Parker finds himself fending off accusations that he has abandoned England. "To me, this is a big world we live in, and Britain's a tiny country," said Parker, who must be one of the few directors of any nationality to feel liberated by Hollywood.

"The whole thing of growing up in Islington or whatever is not a fact at all in the United States," he said. "It doesn't matter. No one gives a damn. No one worries where you come from or who you are."

"What matters in America is that you're a filmmaker, and that's a very healthy feeling."



Director Alan Parker (right) with American actors Denis Quaid (center) and Tamlyn Tomita who starred in Parker's latest film *Come See The Paradise*.

Cuban 'raft art' comes to Miami gallery

By Joanne Kenen

Reuter

MIAMI — To Fred Snitzer, the flimsy rafts of rubber, string and wood that carry Cuban refugees to Florida are more than powerful political symbols. They are works of art.

Snitzer has displayed eight makeshift rafts and boats in his coral gables art gallery in an exhibition called "they would rather die."

The exhibition includes a 30-minute documentary film on the Cuban refugees and paintings by four exiled artists about the hazardous, often fatal, flight from the Caribbean island to the Un-

ited States.

Some 17,000 Cubans have arrived in the makeshift rafts since President Fidel Castro's 1959 Communist revolution. Nearly 1,400 have come so far this year, more than any year since the Mariel boatlift in 1980. This was when 125,000 people left from the western port of Mariel in a five-month exodus sanctioned by the Cuban leader.

No one knows how many have not survived the trip.

To Miami's intensely political Cuban community, the rafts serve as an indictment of Castro. Snitzer agrees, but also sees contemporary sculpture.

"I was very, very moved

when I first saw the rafts," said Snitzer about his friend Adalberto Delgado's film, in which refugees describe how they scavenged the inner tubes of tyres, hoarded bits of wood and burlap before embarking on their journey.

"They hold up visually in the art world ... there is a creative insistence and they show that sometimes people who are not artists can make art."

Snitzer staged the exhibition during the traditionally slow summer season, when he usually holds some kind of non-profit making event. He has received inquiries from several galleries in other parts of the country and hopes to take it on a national

tour. Humberto Sanchez, who has been collecting the rafts, lent several to Snitzer for the show. Sanchez and a group of associates are trying to raise money to start a permanent raft museum and monument in Miami.

Each of the four artists whose paintings are exhibited with the rafts were exploring the theme even before Snitzer brought them together for his show.

Julio Antonio, who left Cuba five years ago, has spent the last 18 months on a series about the raft people. He calls one canvas "poignant realities."

Juan Abreu-Felipe, who came to the United States on

the Mariel boatlift, calls his bright but painful images of rafts and crosses "Death By Water."

"It's expressionistic, filled with all sorts of agonies," said Snitzer, a sculptor trained in Philadelphia who has owned a Miami gallery for 14 years.

Luis Cruz Azaceta is the best-known of the exiled artists represented at the exhibition. He contributed two paintings, one of a skull in a boat.

Paul Sierra, who lives in Chicago, away from the Cuban exile centres in Miami and New Jersey, offered a canvas called "swimmer." The single head bobbing in the waves is emblematic both

of the refugees and of an exile's life, said Snitzer.

All of the paintings dwell on the Cubans who die.

A look at the rafts explains why most are very basic, one or two inner tubes strapped to a few wooden planks.

One is a simple wooden boat which barely looks strong enough to survive a pond let alone the Atlantic Ocean. It was discovered, afloat but empty, the fate of its occupant unknown, according to Sanchez.

The boat lies quietly in a corner of the gallery, although Snitzer was tempted to stand it upright because from that angle "it looks like a gothic cathedral."

Australian researchers optimistic on skin cancer vaccine

SYDNEY (R) — Australian researchers, testing a pioneering vaccine aimed at preventing regrowth of the most deadly form of skin cancer after surgery, have said results so far were promising.

Three years of trials across the country have involved 270 patients with melanoma — malignant tumours that can spread to other parts of the body, causing death.

"It's certainly looking quite promising," Professor Peter Hersey, research director of the Royal Newcastle Hospital's melanoma unit, told Reuters.

Prof. Hersey and Australia's leading skin cancer specialist, Professor Bill McCarthy, co-directors of the study, propose to test 400 patients before knowing conclusively whether the vaccine is effective.

"Within two years we should be able to determine if we can successfully vaccinate against this disease," Prof. McCarthy said.

There had been no detrimental effect on the patients and growth appeared to have been halted, he said.

Prof. McCarthy, head of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's melanoma unit, warned

earlier this year that about two-thirds of Australia's 17 million population would develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetime and one in 55 would develop potentially fatal melanoma cancer.

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and a vaccine against melanoma has long been thought possible by immunologists, Prof. Hersey said.

The vaccine being tested in random trials is made from melanoma cells artificially infected with the vaccinia virus. Vaccinia is the basis of the vaccine that rid the world of smallpox.

Patients vaccinated after surgery were in two high-risk melanoma groups — with thick primary melanoma and with melanoma that had spread to regional lymph nodes.

At present only 30 to 40 per cent of patients in either group survive for more than five years after surgery.

The concept is that the vaccinia component of the vaccine would stimulate the T-cells of the patient's immune system while the melanoma component would prime the aroused T-cells against the melanoma.

Allergy sufferers in dark over cosmetics

By Hilde Lang

COSMETICS manufacturers in Germany are still refusing to tell consumers what their products contain. Consumer watchdogs say the cosmetics industry has not reacted to growing consumer caution and scepticism about chemicals. The Consumer Association (AGV) in Bonn says the industry strictly refuses to specify the contents of its products. Yet the number of people with allergies is steadily increasing.

Women in particular come into daily contact with large numbers of chemicals in make-up, lotions and creams. Most women regard daily use of cosmetics as a matter of course. Yet the secrecy remains.

Neither is shelf life properly regulated. "Best by" dates are at present a statutory requirement only for products that will keep for less than two and a half years. This regulation is a temptation to make over-generous use of preservatives. Like foodstuffs, the consumer watchdogs argue, cosmetics ought to have a "best by" date storage conditions printed on the package.

Arrangements are urgently needed for what are called natural cosmetics, which is a concept that has yet to be clearly defined. There is, for instance, no definition of constituents which are emphasised in advertising, such as avocado cream. The percentage admixture of

these constituents ought at the very least to be specified.

The European Commission submitted amendment proposals for the existing cosmetics directive over a year ago. The AGV in Bonn says the proposals bore the hallmarks of the manufacturers' interests. All they envisaged was a strictly limited improvement in safety and declaration provisions, and they have yet to have the slightest effect.

The European Commission is in the process of cataloguing the roughly 8,000 substances used in creams, lotions and other cosmetics. It would arguably be more important for natural and synthetic chemicals to be checked by acknowledged experts for their dermatological and toxicological effect. Natural substances can just as easily trigger allergies as chemicals. Minimum standards ought also to be laid down for raw materials, standards that eliminate noxious substances.

As with foodstuffs all ingredients need to be specified. It can be done, as other countries, such as the United States, have shown. It is an important issue now consumers are more sensitive than they used to be and have grown more demanding in respect of quality. Health standards and environmental friendliness are increasingly influencing their decisions on what they buy — Rheinische Post.

Colombia making first effective malaria vaccine

By Michael Stott
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — The world's first effective vaccine against malaria, a disease that kills three million people a year in the tropics, is now only a few years away after encouraging trial results, the vaccine's inventor told an international conference Friday.

"We're now moving very quickly because various countries around the world — in Latin America, Africa and Asia — are collaborating to develop the vaccine," Manuel Elkin Patarroyo of Colombia's National Institute of Immunology said in an interview after addressing the fourth International Con-

gress on Malaria here. Malaria is one of the world's biggest killers.

More than 300 million cases are reported every year and one to two per cent prove fatal. By comparison, AIDS has claimed fewer than 200,000 lives since it was discovered.

Scientists have produced five different vaccines but Dr. Patarroyo's is the only one to have been tested on humans and the only one with positive field results from thousands of volunteers to back its claims.

Asked how many years away a mass-produced vaccine was, Dr. Patarroyo, 44, replied: "Not many. I don't want to give a firm date because we still have to com-

plete testing, but not many."

Dr. Patarroyo's vaccine is a chemical copy of molecules used by the malaria parasite in invading human blood cells. When the vaccine, known as SPF 66, is injected into humans, it stimulates the production of natural defences, or antibodies, against malaria.

In his presentation to the conference, Dr. Patarroyo said three doses of his vaccine had provided effective protection against malaria for 73 to 80 per cent of the 30,000 human volunteers who tested it in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

"One of its big advantages is that it's completely safe," Dr. Patarroyo said. "The worst that the vaccine has

induced, in a very small proportion of people, is a small swelling after the second or third dose — but most injections can cause that."

Further trials are now beginning in Brazil and three African countries to test how efficient the vaccine is in different areas under different climatic conditions. Trials in Asia will follow next year.

The vaccine is cheap to produce, Dr. Patarroyo said it cost just 25 cents to make enough for a three-shot dose — well within the reach of the developing nations that are its biggest potential market.

"I'm not interested in becoming a millionaire," Dr. Patarroyo told Reuters. "I

want to donate the discovery and its technology to humanity in the name of the Colombian people, via the United Nations. Anyone who wants to make the vaccine will be able to."

U.S., British, German and French scientists at the conference applauded Dr. Patarroyo's presentation warmly and his reception in Rio followed favourable reviews in once sceptical U.S. and British scientific publications.

"Patarroyo and Colombia are to be congratulated on this work: A malaria vaccine has arrived," G.H. Mitchell of Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, wrote in a recent editorial in the scientific journal *Vaccine*.

"It is imperfect, but it may

well deserve the public acclaim it receives."

Dr. Patarroyo, whose work is funded mainly by the Colombian government, noted that one of his biggest initial problems was to persuade a doubtful scientific community that world class research could be done in developing countries.

"At first there was scepticism, which was logical," he said. "Then there was an emotional reaction, thinking that this type of vaccine could not have been developed in Latin America, far less in Colombia."

"But," he added with a grin, "given the results, since they are intelligent people, the only thing they could do was accept them."

Withdrawal symptoms may help keep caffeine use popular

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Kicking the caffeine habit abruptly can bring on headaches, lethargy and a case of the blahs bad enough to look like a possible depression, new studies confirm.

Up to 90 per cent of adults in North America consume caffeine regularly, partly because they can feel so lousy when they stop, said researcher Suzanne Evans of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Addiction Research Centre in Baltimore.

Even people who just don't feel like themselves before they've had their first cup of coffee may be feeling early symptoms of caffeine withdrawal, she said.

Caffeine withdrawal is "a real phenomenon," she said. "That may be one thing that maintains caffeine intake, avoiding the withdrawal."

The research suggests that

a person who wants to eliminate caffeine should do it gradually over a few days, Ms. Evans said. Even one cup of coffee has enough caffeine to run the risk of withdrawal if it's suddenly eliminated, she said.

Ms. Evans spoke in a recent interview and during a presentation of research results Friday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

As many as 90 per cent of adults in North America regularly consume foods containing caffeine, with most caffeine coming from coffee, researchers said at the meeting.

The average intake is a little more than 200 milligrams a day. That's the equivalent of about 2.5 cups of perked coffee, 3.5 cups of instant coffee or a little less than two cups of dripped coffee.

Researcher Dr. John Hughes of the University of

Vermont in Burlington said scientists don't know what percentage of the population is vulnerable to caffeine withdrawal. But the new work shows doctors should consider it when patients complain of headaches or fatigue," Dr. Hughes said.

Caffeine withdrawal is no fun, as Ms. Evans' study of 62 people illustrated. Study participants averaged about 235 milligrams a day of caffeine before the study, a fairly typical amount.

The experiment lasted three weeks. In the first week the people ate and drank as usual, but recorded their consumption so their caffeine intake could be calculated.

For each of the next two weeks, they continued as usual for the first five days, but on the last two days they were given capsules to take and told not to consume any caffeine.

For one of those weeks, the capsules had just enough

caffeine to maintain each person's usual intake. For the other week, the capsules were placebos.

As expected, the withdrawal showed itself in headaches and lethargy when the capsules were the placebos.

The study participants also filled out a standard psychological test that is commonly used to screen for depression.

When the capsules contained caffeine, only 3 per cent of the subjects had high enough scores to indicate possible depression. But when the capsules were placebos, 11 per cent scored that high.

A second study of 17 people found that when they abruptly stopped taking 100 milligrams of caffeine a day, they had less severe headaches than when they stopped taking 300 milligrams a day. But their fatigue and sluggishness were just as bad.

Kicking tobacco habit leads to slow drop in lung cancer risk

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — In a challenge to conventional wisdom, U.S. researchers reported Tuesday that kicking the cigarette habit leads only to a very gradual decrease in lung cancer risk.

"While the risk of heart disease declines 50 per cent in the first year after quitting smoking, with lung cancer the risk declines by the same amount only after 10 years," said Donald Shopland of the U.S. government's National Institutes of Health (NIH).

But Dr. Shopland, who is coordinator of the NIH Smoking and Tobacco Control Programme, told Reuters the new report does not mean people should continue smoking. The longer people smoke, the greater their chances are of contracting lung cancer, he said in a telephone interview.

According to the U.S. government, lung cancer remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States,

although cigarette consumption has declined by one-third over 30 years. The American Cancer Society estimates 143,000 Americans will die from lung cancer this year.

The findings by a team led by Mr. Shopland was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

The scientists, extrapolating from several smoking studies, found that lung cancer risk among former smokers depended upon their total lifetime exposure to cigarette smoke, the length of time since quitting, and their general health at the time they stopped smoking.

Mr. Shopland and his co-authors found that over a 20-year period ending in 1982 the U.S. lung cancer risk doubled among men and quadrupled among women, reflecting the growing popularity of smoking during the 1950s and 1960s.

Lung cancer death rates among non-smokers were

almost unchanged during the same period.

Meanwhile a study said smokers whose hearts race in a stressful situation are more likely to relapse after they quit cigarettes, suggesting a way to identify smokers who need special treatment to kick the habit.

The more a smoker's heart sped up, the greater the risk he would be smoking again within three months of quitting, a researcher at Brown University, in Providence, said.

The finding suggests people may be able to resist relapse if they receive training in stress management, said researcher Raymond Niaura.

Dr. Niaura, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Brown, spoke in an interview before presenting the work at the annual American Psychological Association meeting. The study included 76 male and female smokers. They had smoked an average of 27

cigarettes a day for an average of 22 years. "These were people you would consider to be diehard smokers," Dr. Niaura said.

In a laboratory, the smokers' heart rates were recorded before and during a stressful task, which was to make a good impression on a stranger who sat beside them.

Later, smokers were asked how anxious they were during the experience and how much it made them want to smoke. In addition, researchers studied videotapes of the encounters.

The smokers entered an eight-week, stop-smoking programme. Three months after it ended, which was five months after testing, smokers were checked for relapse.

In all, 60 of the 76 had started smoking again, a rate Dr. Niaura said is not unusual. The extent to which their heartbeats sped up during the encounter predicted higher relapse rates, Dr. Niaura said.

Lancet: Two drinks a day reduce risk of heart attack

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Two drinks a day reduce the risk of heart attack by more than a quarter, according to a study of 44,059 men published in this week's *Lancet*.

Among 27,717 men who have never been diagnosed as suffering from heart disease or a related illness, those who

drank between a half and 2½ drinks a day reduced the risk of heart disease by 26 per cent, said Dr. Eric Rimm, who directed the study.

"We found a dose response, with the more alcohol consumed, the more reduced the risk for heart disease," said Dr. Rimm, of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Previous studies that have

shown a link between moderate drinking and reduced risk of heart attack have been criticised because of the assumption many non-drinkers have been advised to abstain because they were already suffering from a heart condition.

That would mean more people prone to heart disease were in the low-drinking categories, biasing the re-

sults. Dr. Rimm said his study showed the same beneficial effect of alcohol even after excluding men who suffered from heart disease or related illnesses such as diabetes, gout and hypertension.

The investigators excluded men who said they substantially decreased their drinking the past 10 years, to weed out any who might be ab-

staining on doctors' orders.

Dr. Arthur Klatsky, chief of the Division of Cardiology at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Centre in Oakland, California, said the data confirms earlier research from his group at Kaiser Permanente. Its 1986 study of 80,000 people showed that a few drinks a day reduced the risk of being hospitalised for heart disease by 40 per cent, and a 1990 study of more than 100,000 people showing that moderate drinking reduced the risk of death from

heart disease by 40 per cent.

He said "the case is growing stronger all of the time" that a few drinks a day reduces the risk of heart disease.

About 23 per cent of the men in Dr. Rimm's study drank less than once a month, 26.4 per cent drank more than one drink a day, and 3.5 per cent drank more than three to four drinks a day.

One drink is equivalent to a can of beer, a 4-ounce glass of wine, or a shot of spirits.

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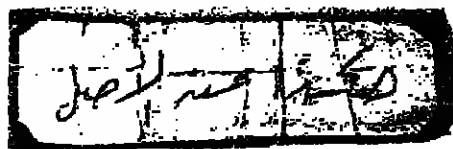
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WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED



King arrives in London from Vienna

The King left Vienna Wednesday afternoon ending a two-day official visit to Austria. The King was seen off by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and senior Austrian officials.

Earlier Wednesday, the King attended a special ceremony at the municipality of Vienna to mark the occasion of his visit to Austria. The King awarded the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order to the mayor of Vienna in a show of appreciation to the city's historic role.

King Hussein said in a speech he delivered at the ceremony that the medal was an expression of appreciation of the city's contribution to human civilisation and an expression of friendship and respect to the Austrian people.

The King said: "On this particular occasion to bring with me from the government and people of Jordan once more our pride and our friendship. It has been one that has grown over many many years and on the personal level Vienna has always had a very special place in our hearts. It is true that true friendship endures through difficult times and circumstances, but the fact that they do endure creates a very special bond greater than what would normally be the case."

"I had promised myself that when I was able to travel to Europe again one of the first stops I will make would be with my friends in Austria to thank the federal president, the government, the people of Austria for the friendship and the warmth with which they surrounded us during one of the most challenging periods that we have had to

endure in our region and in our history.

"We stood for ideals and principles. We stood against aggression and we stood for peaceful resolution to problems. We stood for the lives of many and for diverting the resources towards building and constructing and forging a better future for mankind. We stood in protection of the environment of our small universe, the home of all of us in this world. We were possibly misunderstood by many, but amongst those who understood us and stood with us were our friends in Austria, and their support in every level meant very much and will always be remembered by my countrymen and my people."

"We are on the threshold of hopefully a new phase in the life of our region and the world. We are optimistic, enthusiastic and determined to contribute our utmost for the fulfilment of a dream and the attainment of a goal, which is that of an honourable, just and lasting peace for our people, for all the people in the region and for future generations."

The mayor of Vienna welcomed King Hussein on behalf of the city's residents and lauded Jordanian-Austrian relations. He expressed pride in the King and said awarding of the medal to Vienna embodied that the strength of friendship between Amman and Vienna.

He stressed the need to enhance bilateral relations for the interest of both the Jordanian and Austrian peoples.

The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour and senior Austrian officials.

Republics tell Gorbachev central government is finished

By Bryan Brumley
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told legislators he returned from three days of house arrest to find a different country. Then he found out how different as republic leaders told him Monday that his central government had "committed suicide."

Leaders of the 15 Soviet republics, especially Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin, have taken power into their own hands.

But with that power will come many of the same problems that stymied Mr. Gorbachev in his efforts to simultaneously reform and preserve the country. The economy is shackled by 74 years of central control and the nation is still learning the basics of

democracy.

Mr. Gorbachev resigned Saturday as head of the Communist Party, shattering its power, and on Monday proposed putting his fate in the hands of the people by holding the country's first popular national presidential elections.

But moments after he spoke in the Supreme Soviet legislature, speakers from three of the four largest Soviet republics — Russia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan — rose to say they were taking matters into their own hands.

And the president of Uzbekistan — the third-most-populous republic — ordered his legislature to prepare a law of independence.

"We all think differently to day... It's time to stop running after the time that is gone," said Kazakhstan President Nursultan

Nazarbayev, who after Mr. Yeltsin is the most respected among the republic leaders.

Mr. Nazarbayev and other republic leaders sketched out steps they are taking to seize control of centrally owned enterprises, and in many cases to turn them over to private control.

The Supreme Soviet voted overwhelmingly to convene its parent body, the Congress of People's Deputies, next Monday. It invited republic leaders to debate the future of the nation and weigh proposals to liquidate the central government.

"Neither Mr. Gorbachev nor central authorities are capable of defending the interests of the peoples of the USSR," said Yuri Sheherbak of the Ukraine.

"The Supreme Soviet has failed to understand that the

whole of the centre has completely outlived itself. It is dead. It committed suicide," said Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian.

Mr. Nazarbayev said Mr. Gorbachev's proposed union treaty to preserve the Soviet Union should be drastically revised. He said there should be no central cabinet of ministers or parliament, that the republics should have their own foreign ministries and military forces, and that the central army should limit itself to border defence.

The country, he said, should be run by a "transitional inter-republican economic council" to forge not a political federation but an economic market.

Mr. Yeltsin's aide Ruslan Khasbulatov called for decollectivisation of land, transfer of fac-

ilities and businesses first to republic and then to private ownership, and sharp cuts in spending by the military and KGB.

The Russian president would act "without hesitation to dismiss" elected and appointed officials in the Russian Federation who "stained themselves through links with the junta," said Mr. Khasbulatov.

Mr. Yeltsin did not appear in the Soviet legislature, letting Mr. Khasbulatov speak in his place. But his authority was clear both in Moscow and around the world.

"Yeltsin is more president of the Soviet Union than Gorbachev," said Latvian lawmaker Nick Neilds, predicting that the Soviet congress would follow Mr. Yeltsin's lead in recognising the Baltic independence.

In Washington, U.S. Deputy

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger was asked who was in charge of the Soviet Union. "It's a tough one to answer, but to the degree that we can figure it out it's Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev," he replied "yes" when asked whether the power flowed in that order.

As the shock of the past week's tumult wears off, Mr. Yeltsin and other republic leaders will face virtually the same problems Mr. Gorbachev has been grappling with for the past six years.

"We should remain sober," said Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, addressing a public funeral on Saturday for three young men slain resisting the coup.

"The shelves are still empty. We have little meat and not enough apartments," he said. "But everything is ours."

Lebanese fears becoming casualty of tighter German asylum laws

By Richard Murphy
Reuters

BONN — Lebanese cook Ahmed Salman fears tighter German asylum rules could cost him his life.

The 39-year-old fled to Germany with his wife and 10 children in 1989 after being threatened by members of the radical Muslim group Hizbollah (Party of God).

After two years of anxious waiting, during which his family has lived in a single room, his application for political asylum in a town near the Dutch border has been turned down.

Unless he can convince the authorities on appeal that his life is in danger, he will be expelled.

"If this decision remains in force it will be a catastrophe for this man," says Simon, a Palestinian restaurant owner who has befriended Mr. Salman. "It would mean sending him to his doom."

Had Mr. Salman come to Germany a year earlier, his future would be rosy.

The German government, anxious to stem a never-ending tide of foreigners seeking asylum under its liberal laws, has agreed that Lebanese, Iranians, Palestinians and Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived before December 31, 1988 can stay for humanitarian reasons, even if they are not granted asylum.

Those like Mr. Salman who came later have no such protection.

Traditionally, many of Germany's federal states allowed refugees to stay even after asylum petitions were rejected if they came from countries hit by civil war or with a poor human rights record.

A revised asylum law that took effect on July 4 stripped them of their power unilaterally to block deportations of rejected asylum-seekers.

Now state governments need the Bonn interior minister's approval to keep rejected asylum-seekers.

The government, alarmed by a jump in the number of applications for asylum to 112,828 in the first seven months of 1991, has made it clear it wants to see foreigners who do not meet its asylum criteria deported.

The 1988 cut-off point seems particularly cruel to Mr. Salman, who says he stayed in Lebanon as

long as he could.

"I can't understand why these people who came in 1988 can simply stay and I can't," he told Reuters, speaking through an interpreter.

"There has been war in Lebanon for 16 years. I stayed there for 14 years even though it was very dangerous. When I saw this cannot go on, that there was a real danger, that's when I fled."

Critics accuse Bonn of wanting to get rid of mainly Third World refugees, who face growing hostility as united Germany concentrates on rebuilding its run-down east and finding work for ethnic German immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Amnesty International says up to 100,000 foreigners face expulsion under the new rules. The government puts the figure at 13,000.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl says the get-tough policy is aimed only at economic migrants and insists Germany will always remain open for people facing genuine persecution.

"For us Germans, after the experience of German history, it is very important that the actual right of asylum is sacred," he said this month.

Bonn's 1949 constitution includes a unique provision guaranteeing asylum to anyone who faces political persecution, which was partly a product of the country's sense of guilt for the crimes of the Nazis.

Mr. Kohl added: "Anyone persecuted in his country for religious, political, racial or comparable reasons must be able to find a home here."

A home in Germany is all Mr. Salman wants.

"All I want is a place where I can live in peace with my family, a place to spend the night in peace," he said.

He prefers not to give details of his difficulties with Hizbollah but is in no doubt that his life would be in danger in Lebanon.

"He was persecuted by Hizbollah," Mr. Simon said. "This is not a democratic world where you say, 'this is my opinion. It's not like that. You are eliminated.'"

Mr. Salman's hopes of being able to return one day to a peaceful Lebanon were dashed when he learned that his house had been destroyed in an Israeli air raid two months ago.

"The house was his only hope. If he knew that nothing would happen to him, he would have gone back tomorrow," Mr. Simon says.

"Now he has nowhere to go. He doesn't speak German, everything is alien to him here, the weather, the language."

Mr. Simon has written to the authorities saying he is keen to employ Mr. Salman as a cook. He is also paying a lawyer to conduct the appeal against the expulsion order.

"He doesn't want social security. He doesn't want to be a burden for Germany," Mr. Simon says. "The man wants to work."

Mr. Salman's appeal against the decision to expel him should be decided within six months. If it fails, he will be expelled.

Puffing anxiously on a cigarette, he prefers not to contemplate that possibility.

"Something must be done. I definitely will not go. The day before they expel me I will flee. I'll go underground."

Back off, Gorbachev warns Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1)

changes in the armed forces' command structure.

A joint Soviet-Russian delegation flew to Kiev Wednesday to try to defuse Ukrainian alarm over Mr. Yeltsin's announcement that Russia reserved the right to contest borders with any republic that quit the Soviet Union.

Despite a flurry of independence declarations since the collapse of the coup attempt — by Estonia, Latvia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Moldova — Mr. Yeltsin himself spoke in defence of the union.

"Republics are declaring independence, but this does not mean that the idea of the union is dead," he told an audience of Russian enclaves.

The spread of Russian power into Soviet institutions continued with publication of an order from Mr. Yeltsin claiming the right to veto foreign exchange transactions.

The composition of the new interim administration, headed by Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, confirmed the growing influence of the giant Russian Republic, home of 150 million of the Soviet Union's 285 million people.

Mr. Silayev, who is effectively acting Soviet prime minister, will oversee the ministries of finance, defence, internal and foreign affairs, the KGB, the media and national resources.

Another of Mr. Yeltsin's men, Yuri Luzhkov, deputy mayor of Moscow, is responsible for agriculture, trade and social affairs.

Radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky is charged with drawing up an overall strategy for market reform.

Former Gorbachev aide Arkady Volzky, the fourth mem-

ber of the governing committee, takes charge of industry, construction, transport and communications.

Of the 21 ordinary members of the committee, three were given specific responsibilities and two of them are Russians.

A Russian deputy prime minister, Ivan Gavrilov, will oversee energy — the Soviet Union is the world's biggest oil producer — and another, Yevgeny Saburov, overall economic questions.

An official from Kazakhstan, A. Bektemisov, is put in charge of industrial supplies.

The other officials were given no specific portfolios. They include ministers or senior officials from all the republics, despite the fact that eight of the 15 have declared independence or have plans to move that way.

The three Baltic republics, whose independence has already been recognised by about 30 countries, are represented on the committee by observers, according to the official announcement.

Mr. Yeltsin has recognised the independence of the Baltic states: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. But he has strong reservations about the Ukrainian move, which is subject to a referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin's statement Monday about challenging borders stirred historic suspicions of "Russian chauvinism" in the Ukraine, a powerful republic of 50 million people.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman made clear Russia was concerned about two areas of the Ukraine populated mostly by Russians — the Donbass in the southeast and the Crimea — and about northern Kazakhstan.

"Relations with Russia are becoming more and more complex as a result of Mr. Yeltsin's statement," said an official in the Ukrainian administration.

Speaking on condition he not be identified, the official said: "Of course we're not interested in tensions, but the Russians can't expect a positive response from us."

"This may be an attempt to exert pressure on the people before the referendum."

Demonstrators shouting "No to the imperial centre" and "Independence for the Ukraine" met the joint delegation from Moscow, which included Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy and Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak.

In the crackdown on the KGB, a presidential spokesman said, its deputy chief Viktor Grushkov was arrested and the Moscow city chief, General Vitaly Pritukov, was sacked.

Mr. Gorbachev also ordered the transfer of hundreds of thousands of KGB troops controlled by the governing body, the Collegium, to the Defence Ministry.

The KGB played a major role in the coup against Mr. Gorbachev.

The dissolution of the Collegium effectively removes the nerve centre of one of the most powerful state institutions.

All KGB departments, from foreign espionage to domestic security, now report directly to the new, liberal KGB chief, Vadim Bakatin.

President Gorbachev earlier Wednesday telephoned Mr. Shevardnadze, who had been his foreign minister for five years until he announced his resignation last December.

Mr. Pankin served 1953-65 as deputy and then chief editor of Komsomolskaya Pravda, the newspaper of the Young Communist League, and as chairman of the Soviet Copyright Agency 1973-82.

PLO team in Cairo for talks

(Continued from page 1)

will abide by Resolution 242. Mr. Arafat also accused the Israeli secret service Mossad of responsibility for the slaying in January of two of his closest aides — Salah Khalaf and Hayel Abdul Hamid.

The two men were killed in Tunisia where the PLO has its headquarters by a gunman loyal to Abu Nidal who split from the PLO in 1973.

"Behind these crimes was Abu Nidal and behind Abu Nidal was the Mossad," Mr. Arafat said. In Damascus, a group within the PLO Wednesday rejected the U.S. peace plan, saying the ideas were "aiming at eliminating the Palestinian cause."

Sharon details settlement plans

(Continued from page 1)

Commission of Jurists.

Israel's military government said 80,000 "designs" had been declared "state land" in the past three years. Hanan Rubin, a spokesman for the military government in the occupied territories, said Israel now controlled about 40 per cent of the land in the West Bank and Gaza.

Al Haq said 304,120 dunums, or 8.78 per cent of the total land area in the occupied territories, were seized between January 1988 and June 1991.

Of these, 418,642 dunums, or 7.29 per cent of the land area, were seized between January 1990 and June 1991, the report said.

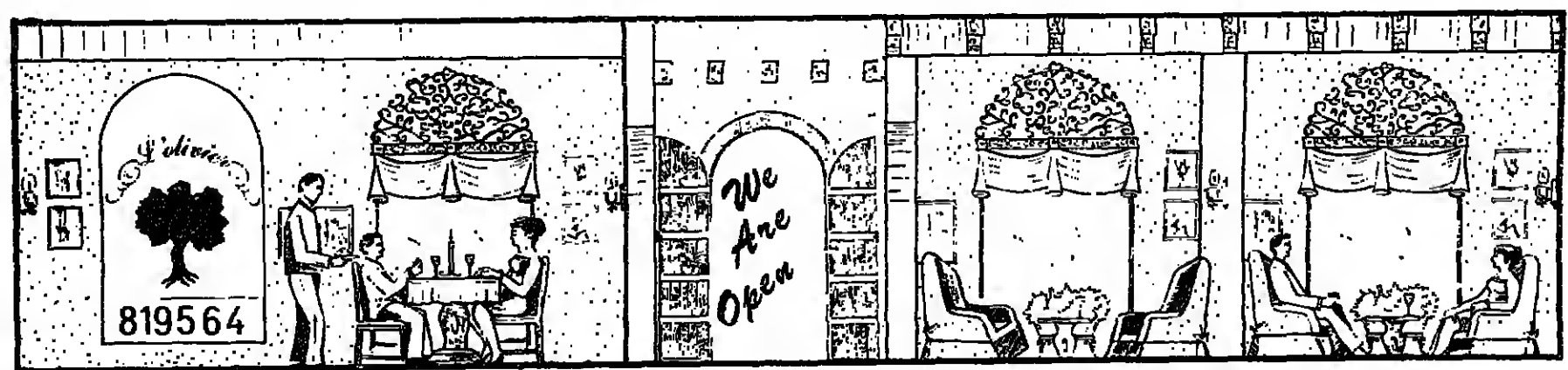
It said the main method was to

target non-registered Palestinian land, declare it "state land," and then use it to build Jewish settlements.

About two-thirds of Palestinian land is not registered because the registration process begun by the Jordanian government was suspended after Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 war, Al Haq said.

"Since then, Israel has prevented the vast majority of the Palestinians from registering their land," said Al Haq researcher Frances Hasso, who compiled the report.

Another method is to confiscate land for public purposes, "which usually means the construction of settlements or roads serving settlements," the Al Haq report said.



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FACE PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

Despite coup tension, Soviets lead at World Championships

TOKYO (Agencies) — The Soviet team has shaken off the effects of political turmoil at home to take a commanding lead in the medals race halfway through the 3rd World Athletics Championships.

The Soviet performance not only appeared unaffected by the coup that failed last week, it also dispelled doubts stemming from the team's mediocre showing at the 1990 European Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, that domestic problems had crippled the Soviets as a track power.

At this tournament, 14 medals in four days — including four golds — have given the Soviet Union a five-medal lead over the second-place United States. The Soviets have twice as many medals as the unified German team.

"Our athletes have been able to train properly this year despite many problems. This proves their dedication to the sport and their professional approach," said former Soviet star Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, now chairman of the National athletics federation.

A mix of veterans and newer stars has contributed to the team's success at the championships.

At 36, Yuri Sedykh was one of the oldest competitors. But the world record-holder and Olympic champion was still No. 1 in the

hammer throw, which he dominated with 81.70 metres for the Soviet team's only men's gold so far.

The women provided a gold on opening day in the walk and two big golds with their middle distance runners.

Alina Ivanova, at 22 a rising star in the event, had a strong finish to take the 10-kilometre walk in 42 minutes, 57 seconds Saturday.

Lilia Nurutdinova upset heavy favourite Ana Quirot of Cuba for a gold in the 800 metres with 1:57.50 and two-time world and Olympic champion Tatyana Dorovskikh, formerly Samolenko, won the 3,000.

Making a comeback after marrying and having a child, the 30-year-old Dorovskikh led a 1-2 Soviet placing in the event with 8:35.82.

Some of the team's big guns are yet to perform, including star pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, giving the Soviet Union a good chance of leading the medals table throughout the championships.

In Rome four years ago, the east Germans led in golds with 10, followed by the United States with 9. The Soviet team was only third with 7.

Overall, the east Germans had 31 medals to 25 for the Soviet Union and 20 for the United

States.

In Tuesday's finals, Katrin Krahbe broke Jamaican Merlene Ottey's streak of 56 wins for the women's 100 metres for the first of the three German golds in the day. Krahbe had 10.99, with American Gwen Torrence second at 11.03 and Ottey third 11.06.

Marie-Josée Perec of France won the women's 400 metres in 49.13 seconds, fastest in the world this year, and Sabine Braun of Germany topped the heptathlon with 6,672 points.

The four men's golds went to American Michael Johnson, 20.01 in the 200, to Samuel Matete of Zambia, 47.64 in the 400 metres hurdles, Billi Konchellah of Kenya 1:43.99 in the 800, and Lasz Riedel of Germany, 66.20 metres in the discus.

No respite for Lewis, Ottey on rest day

Meanwhile there was no respite for Carl Lewis and Merlene Ottey Wednesday's rest day at the World Athletics Championships as they braced themselves for the dates with destiny ahead.

For Lewis, athletics immortality beckoned with the prospect of breaking Bob Beamon's 23-year-old long jump world record.

For Ottey, there was contemplation of a more sobering kind — how to win that elusive gold

medal at last.

Lewis reached the pinnacle of what had previously seemed to be a fading career with his stunning world record in Sunday's 100 metres final, highlight of the first half of the championships and by common consent the greatest race ever run.

The American goes into Thursday's long jump qualifiers with his confidence at an all-time high and his sights on finally beating Beamon's 8.90-metre "leap into the 21st century" world record in Friday's final.

Lewis refuses to discuss world records but close associates said beating Beamon's mark, set at altitude in the 1968 Mexico Olympics, would be the crowning point of his already extraordinary list of achievements.

Conditions look promising. The newly developed surface at Tokyo's National Stadium was proved to be super-fast in the 100 metres final when Lewis clocked 9.86 seconds and the first six set personal bests. All within 9.96 seconds.

Lewis, as great a competitor as he is an athlete, could be pushed too by compatriot Mike Powell, whose 8.63-metre jump in June's U.S. National Championships prompted the reigning Olympic and world champion to an 8.64-metre last effort.

Jordan beats Taiwan 76-73 in basketball championships

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan defeated Taiwan 76-73 Wednesday in the quarterfinals of the men's Asian Basketball Championships currently being held in Japan.

His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi, president of the Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF) expressed his pride in the Jordanian national team's results in the championship. In a cable he sent to the vice-president of the Jordanian Federation, Prince Ghazi expressed his wishes that the team would reach the finals.

Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat Wednesday telephoned head of the Jordanian delegation to Japan, Abdullah Kiswani, and congratulated him and the team members over their victory. Dr. Irsheidat conveyed to Mr. Kiswani the greetings of the Jordanian youth to the Jordanian team.

Dr. Irsheidat, who earlier sent a congratulatory cable to the team urged them to do their utmost to win in the remaining matches in order to win a place for Jordan in the Olympic Games.

Unity Games to end South Africa's isolation

TOKYO (AP) — An athletics meet called the "African Unity Games" will end South Africa's isolation from athletics in October, the head of the sport's world governing body said Wednesday.

But Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), declined to predict whether South African athletes would be in the Olympics in Barcelona next summer.

He reiterated that the federation had done everything it could to bring them into the current World Championships in Tokyo, and said it would continue to push for South Africans to be allowed to compete internationally.

The newly racially unified South African track body turned down its invitation to Tokyo, saying many more things had to change at home before the federation could be fully operational and the athlete could be allowed to compete abroad.

Nebiolo said the Unity Games — only for African and South African athletes — are scheduled

on Oct. 5 in Dakar, Senegal, and Oct. 11-12 in Johannesburg, South Africa, after the African Games in Cairo.

They are being organized "in the hope of seeking a positive solution to the problem of South Africa's isolation from the international athletics scene," he said at a news conference.

Nebiolo said he would travel to Africa to officially open the games, being organized in consultation with leaders of African track and field.

In May, the IAAF gave the South African Amateur Athletic Association (SAAA) provisional membership that limited it to competition in Africa and against Africans.

Nebiolo said the IAAF hoped the staging of the unity games "will reinforce the position of the South African athletes while at the same time underlining the fact that recognition of the SAAA and the eventual participation of South African athletes outside the African continent can only be granted by the IAAF congress."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a great chance to get you very foundation and structure of your life on a much better basis now by carefully analysing whatever you now have there and replacing what isn't satisfactory.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that those in executive positions have so many pressures they are apt to be short and unpleasant with those about so don't aggravate them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your need ideas are all right at the correct moment for putting them in effect which this is not to be sure in postpone definite action until a better time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think out a course of action that can gain you the good will of all experts in their fields and then get your payments well attended to.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you are able to show partners that you have their welfare and best interest at heart so do so without any of the usual chitchat.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have so many projects to do and this is the time to be so occupied with your chores that you don't have the time to get involved in problems.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to actually show you think about the best way to please companions so you help relieve them of their worries that they have.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever your family now expects of you can be a source of irritation to you but you would be

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Connors beats McEnroe in 5-set battle

NEW YORK (AP) — The legendary duels of Connors and McEnroe took a dramatic, wild turn at the U.S. Open before a roaring crowd whose hero wouldn't quit.

Five-time champion Jimmy Connors, who played so many memorable matches against John McEnroe, thrilled fans with one of his greatest comebacks to beat young Patrick McEnroe 4-6, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 after 4 hours, 20 minutes at 1:55 a.m. Wednesday.

Connors, who turns 39 next Monday, shed years as the match wore on, leaping and lunging in the fifth set on adrenaline and sheer inspiration after limping through part of the first two sets.

So amazed were the thousands of fans at Connors' gutsy, relentless play that they paid homage to him with deep bows, arms raised over their heads, after each game he won in the final set — king Jimmy, ruler of the Stadium Court.

Few moments in U.S. Open history have matched the excitement of Connors' comeback from three break points in the last game to win on his third match point — a service winner against a courageous opponent.

"Whenever you play a McEnroe it's a big occasion, whether I'm playing John, Patrick or John's son Kevin," Connors said. "I hung in there and dug it out."

It was the first time that Connors and little Mac played, and they produced excitement that recalled the spirit, if not the brilliance, of the previous generation of Connors-McEnroe matches.

"It's totally into a real battle," Connors said to fans as he paused to wipe his face and racket early

in the fourth set.

Moments later, he leaped in the air and double-pumped his racket as if it were a sword whacking a backhand winner.

By the fifth set, the battle had grown so fierce and Connors so strong that his every winner provoked frenzied shouts from the thousands of fans who stayed to watch it all.

This was no match of soft-touch volleys. Connors and McEnroe slugged with all their strength from start to finish.

Connors got into a verbal battle with the chair umpire, Dana Locoito, in the third game of the fourth set after an ace by McEnroe gave him the advantage.

Television replays showed the ball clearly was out, and Connors stormed over to Locoito screaming for the referee.

"You're out, you're out," belted Connors, who had complained earlier about a lack of calls on several of McEnroe's aces. But the referee never came out.

Connors brought himself under control and returned to the baseline while the crowd stood and cheered the umpire. McEnroe waited patiently, but then served amid the boos and won the game to go up 2-1 when Connors rufed an overhead into the net.

McEnroe, 4 years old when Connors played the first of his 21 U.S. Opens in 1970, got no respect and no support from his fellow New Yorkers. Connors, a five-times open champion, had the crowd on his side from the moment it packed the stadium.

Right to the end, when only about a third of the seats remained filled, the crowd roared for Connors.

Connors and John McEnroe played some of the longest and most marvelous matches of the 1980s — five-setters that McEnroe won here in the 1980 and 1984 semifinals; another five-setter that Connors won in the 1982 Wimbledon final.

The Connors-McEnroe marathon Tuesday night and Wednesday morning ended more than 14 hours of extraordinary brutally long five-set grind by Ivan Lendl, this one under a savage sun.

Lendl is the Charles Darwin of tennis, the true believer in survival of the fittest. Nothing pleases him more than to see an opponent melt in the heat or stagger to the finish, especially if the opponent is younger.

For Lendl, 31, it is proof that age has nothing to do with strength or stamina, that all the miles he runs and all the weights he lifts are worth the effort.

Lendl survived Tuesday as he has in the past, coming back from two sets down and two match points from defeat in the first round to beat hard-serving, net-charging 19-year-old Richard Krajicek 3-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0.

When the sun was its hottest in that final set, when Krajicek was wobbling on tired legs, his shots having lost their power and his tongue hanging out like a dog's, Lendl looked fresh enough under his white desert cap to play another match and then perhaps a round of golf.

Three times the U.S. Open champion, five times the runner-up, Lendl didn't so much overpower Krajicek in the last set as simply outlast him.



JIMMY CONNORS

"I thought he was actually going to fall down at that stage," Lendl said after the 3½-hour affair.

Lendl wasn't the only high men's seed to encounter trouble, although none suffered the fate of first-day loser Andre Agassi. No. 2 Stefan Edberg beat Bryan Shelton 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1; No. 3 Michael Stich beat Jacco Eltingh 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, 6-0, and No. 9 Sergi Bruguera edged Tomas Carbonell 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

Two other seeds won in straight sets, but not without some difficult moments. No. 1 Boris Becker beat Martin Jaitc 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-3 while Jim Courier, No. 4, had an easier time beating Nicklas Kulti 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

In women's matches, No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario beat Katia Piccolini 6-0, 6-1; No. 5 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Larisa Savchenko 6-3, 6-3; No. 6 Martina Navratilova beat Patricia Tarabini 6-2, 6-2; and No. 9 Jana Novotna beat Ann Grossman 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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THE ART OF THE NON-FINESSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8
♥ A K J 7 3
♦ 5 3 2
♣ A K 7

EAST
♠ K 10 7 3
♥ 6
♦ K 8
♣ J 10 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ Q 10 5 4 2
♦ A Q J 6
♣ 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Putting a finesse in front of some declarers is like waving a red rag at a bull—it invites trouble. The experienced declarer first seeks for other means to fulfill the contract.

North has a hand that's difficult to bid after partner's one-heart opening. We approve of the decision to jump shift and then support hearts—any other action could leave South worried about the quality of the trump suit. A cue-bidding

sequence led to an excellent slam. When this hand was played, declarer realized that if the diamond finesse won, or if the suit split evenly, the contract was cold and the spade finesse would be unnecessary. So South won the first trick in dummy, drew two rounds of trumps and took the diamond finesse. That lost and another club was played. Declarer won and tried to run the diamonds. When that failed, declarer ruffed a diamond and fell back on the spade finesse. The combined chances of this line were about 85 percent, but the slam went down.

There is an alternate line with a slight additional chance. Declarer should win the opening lead, cash one high trump and the king of clubs, then ruff a club. Next, declarer should cash the ace of diamonds! After returning to dummy with a trump, in the process drawing the last enemy fawn, declarer leads a diamond toward his hand. If East has the king, declarer will eventually set up a diamond for a spade discard. If West has the king, declarer gains when the cards lie as in the diagram. After winning the king of diamonds, West is employed. The defender must either concede a ruff, or else lead a spade into declarer's major tenace. Either way, the slam rolls home.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 29, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You certainly have every sort of interest in some new arrangements but they need far more preparation than you wish to give them but wait.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Making a point to seek out suggestions from experts in credit or emotional matters brings you some highly satisfactory way to get ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you want to do that requires some additional rapport with a partner requires you sit down and talk out the overall plan you have.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now find you have every sort of interest in bringing to light the various and varied means by which you can be more effective in doing your project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to gain a better awareness of what those you like expect of you but take no chances with them or you lose the good will built up.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your interest in eliminating any cause of friction at home may make you act in an unwise or over-hasty fashion so quietly assess how your family feels and please them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to make sure you do have the good will of all about by giving them compliments and showing them you are proud to be with them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You find you have all kinds of expenses and that you need more money to attend to them but don't act hastily or it will cost you more than you think.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time for you to make sure that you do find the many problems facing you and look into them with care and an objective stand-point.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get out of the limelight and put yourself in an obscure position where you can watch what is going on about you and study what can be done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your desire for more of this world's pleasures with good friends requires that you first show them your affection and devotion before getting it from them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are the one who needs to be sure you do what anyone in high office asks of you so make a point to show you are the one who does follow rules.

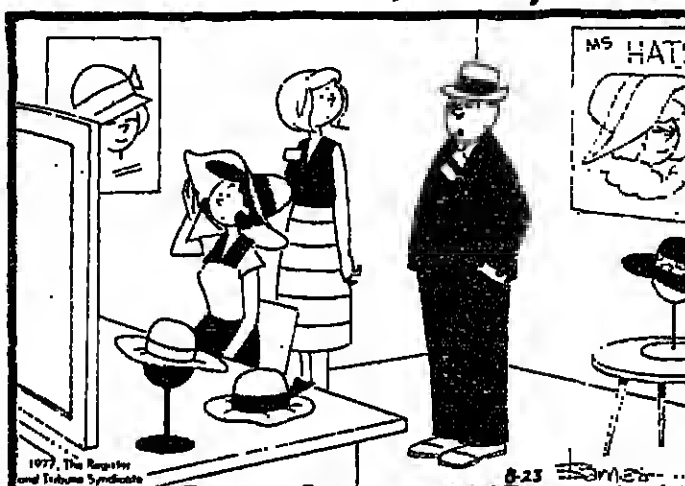
"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Birth Stone for February: Amethyst.

World Resources, Deagan & Co. Inc. Jewelers, Genoa

Amman, Rio de Janeiro Amman, Amman, Rio de Janeiro

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"I'll vouch for the salesperson's comment that it's an Italian original. Tony the junkman's horse wears one just like it."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

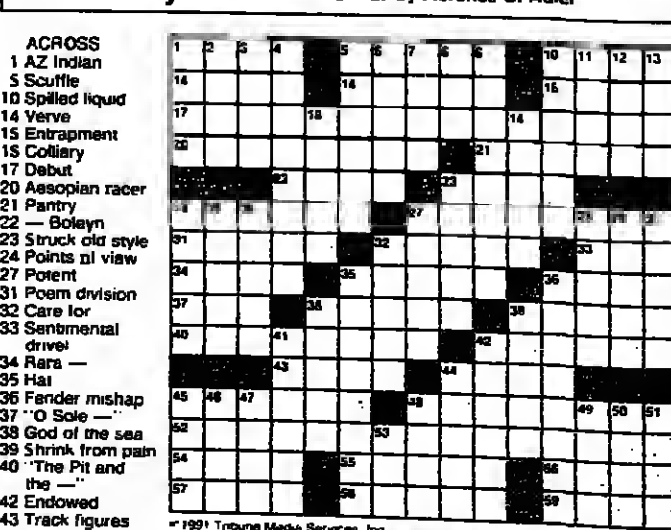
If only I were better at repartee I'm glad there were no fights

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "WHAT HE HAVE" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAMP OCCUR QUEASY MARLIN Answer: What a "human worm" deserves to do—SQUIRM

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler



ACROSS
1 AZ Indian
5 Scuffle
10 Spilled liquid
14 Yew
15 Engraving
16 Colliery
17 Debut
20 Neopagan racer
21 Parry
22 — Boleyn
23 Struck old style
24 Points at view
27 Potent
31 Poem division
32 Care for
33 Sentimental driver
34 Rara —
35 Hat
36 Fender mishap
37 "O Sole —"
38 God of the sea
39 Struck from pain
40 "The Pit and the —"
42 Endowed
43 Track figures
44 Ketch
45 Woman adviser
46 Level
47 Gargam
48 Fender mishap
49 — Boleyn
50 "O Sole —"
51 Charged particle
52 OT Festival
53 Skirt feature
54 Senous
55 Thrill of yore

DOWN
1 Weight
2 Gallinuity
3 Young salmon
4 Moments
5 Discolor
6 Thicket
7 In full bloom
8 Stout cousin
9 David —
10 Intelligence
11 "Swedish Nightingale"
12 Formerly
13 Nobleman
14 Lone Ranger's companion
15 Up the ante
16 More positive
17 Fiscal
18 Charged particle
19 OT Festival
20 Deputy
21 Prudent
22 Carried
23 Alcoholic beverage
24 More egotistical women
25 Active adherent
26 Examina the books
27 River dams
28 — Horn (kind or shape)
29 More egotistical
30 Vanom
31 Salmanders
32 Lays
33 "Abie was I —"
34 saw Elba
35 High-hat
36 NM art colony
37 Sch. subj.
38 Gr. township
39 Love: Lat.

Financial Markets

Currency	NOV/89 CLOSE	NOV/90 CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.6805	1.6740
Deutsche Mark	1.7500	1.7518
Swiss Franc	1.5234	1.5260
French Franc	5.9445	5.9680
Japanese Yen	136.94	137.15
European Currency Unit	1.1735	1.1698

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.68	5.75	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.93	10.68	10.50	10.50
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.06	9.15	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	7.93	7.75
French Franc	9.25	9.37	9.45	9.68
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.25	7.05	6.75
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.75	9.87	9.87

Gold	USD/Oz	JD/Cm	Silver	USD/Oz	JD/Cm
Gold	354.95	6.90	Silver	3.94	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 28/8/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.691	.693
Sterling Pound	1.1545	1.1603
Deutsche Mark	.3923	.3943
Swiss Franc	.4513	.4536
French Franc	.1156	.1162
Japanese Yen	.5092	.5097
Dutch Guilder	.3483	.3500
Swedish Krona	.1083	.1088
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.07918	.07926

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7400	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1539	.1545
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1539	.1545
Omani Rial	.1539	.1545
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2300
Qatari Rial	1.7620	1.7740
UAE Dirham	.1672	.1681
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4500

Index	26/8/91	Close	27/8/91	Close
All Share	106.95		106.19	
Banking Sector	100.00		99.11	
Insurance Sector	118.25		116.42	
Industry Sector	113.95		113.25	
Services Sector	128.27		129.07	

Source: J.S. 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6750/60	U.S. dollar	1.1410/15
One U.S. dollar	1.7570/80	Canadian dollar	1.5785/95
	1.5275/80	Deutsche mark	36.0005
	5.9650/700	Swiss franc	1309/1310
	137.05/15	French franc	6.3670/370
	6.8575/8625	Italian lire	6.7225/75
	6.7225/75	Japanese yen	355.40/90
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

New U.S. financial hurdle threatens fate of \$10 billion loan guarantees to Israel

WASHINGTON — A new and significant problem has arisen in Israel's quest for \$10 billion in U.S.-backed absorption loan guarantees which Israeli officials are prepared to formally request next week, an obstacle that has nothing to do with settlements or the proposed Middle East peace conference.

The issue is financial, not political, and revolves around the question of the size of the percentage of the guarantees which will be counted, or "scored," as expenditures in the U.S. budget.

According to an American Jewish leader who has met recently with a senior State Department official, the Bush administration is planning to count a far larger percentage of the guarantees in the U.S. budget than Israel had anticipated.

Stuart Eisenstadt, a prominent Washington attorney and presidential adviser, said that in a recent conversation with the official, he was told that the White House's Office of Management and Budget wanted to "score" the guarantees as high as 8 per cent. This would mean that the guarantees would count as the equivalent of \$800 million in the United States budget, money which would have to be set aside in case Israel defaults on the loans.

This figure has come as a surprise to Israel and her supporters in Washington.

Earlier in the year, estimates by the Congressional Budget Office that only .5 to 2.5 per cent

\$10 billion in guarantees would be scored on the U.S. budget reassured American Jewish officials that the issue of budget "scoring" would not pose a major problem.

The whole question of scoring arises from a newly enacted law, the Credit Reform Act, which will for the first time count a percentage of U.S.-backed guarantees to foreign countries on the federal budget.

Because of the initial low congressional estimate, the pro-Israel community had not believed that the Credit Reform Act would do significant damage to their push for the loan guarantees.

In fact, with numbers that small, according to Jewish community sources, there were even "informal and unofficial" indications from the Israeli government that Israel might even offer to cover the cost to the United States government.

Mr. Eisenstadt and other Jewish leaders believe that a significantly higher figure would make the loan guarantees much harder to sell politically to members of Congress. Opponents of the guarantees will argue that \$800 million would have to be taken away from other programmes. Such a high figure would also make it even more difficult for Israel to even consider covering the scoring costs.

Israeli officials fear the threat of the high scoring rate could be used as a bargaining chip to evoke political concessions from

Israel, both on the issue of settlements and on the peace process.

The calculation of the percentage made by the administration is based on a U.S. credit rating firm's estimate of the amount of risk that the United States is taking by backing loans to Israel. The administration officials are basing their assessment of Israel's credit-worthiness by the ratings of the firm Standard and Poor's.

Mr. Eisenstadt argued that the Standard and Poor's rating is "out of all proportion to risk." The rating, he argued, "does not take into account as it should that Israel has faithfully repaid all of its sovereign debt, and that it is not about to default on such a large and visible guarantee to its principal benefactor."

Since the loan guarantees will be the first real test of the Credit Reform Act, the "scoring" of Israel's loan guarantees is being watched carefully throughout the U.S. government and by countries that have asked the United States to back loans, or are planning to do so in the future. The standard used to assess Israel's ability to pay back the loans will likely be applied to other cases.

But Mr. Eisenstadt said that Israel cannot rely on alliances with other interest groups to fight the battle for lower scoring of U.S.-backed guarantees.

"If this is going to get done, it will get done by the pro-Israel community," Mr. Eisenstadt said. "We can't count on other groups and organisations to do it for us." — The Jerusalem Post.

Japan's economic growth ties '60s post-war record

TOKYO (Agencies) — The government announced Tuesday that Japan's economy, spurred by domestic demand, has set a post-war record by expanding for 57 straight months through August.

Michio Ochi, chief of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), said he expected the economy to continue to grow at least through the fiscal year that ends March 31.

With robust domestic demand, high levels of corporate earnings and a steadily increasing number of job holders, the expansion streak will surpass the current record set in the 1960s, he said. The agency maintained its previous estimate of 3.8 per cent growth in the gross national product this fiscal year, down from last year's 5.7 per cent growth.

Mr. Ochi said, however, that prospects for next summer are unclear since economic growth is gradually slowing. After that, guiding the economy to a "soft landing" will be a "delicate" manoeuvre, Mr. Ochi said. "The prospects of a sharp fall-off in the pace of economic growth is a risk," he said.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters Tuesday: "More than before, we need to watch the economy with concern." But he also said there is no need for immediate change in the nation's economic policy.

According to the monthly Economic Report released Tuesday, the economic expansion has been supported mainly by rising personal consumption and a decline in land and stock prices.

The Tokyo stock market has deteriorated in recent months due in part to an ongoing scandal involving at least 21 brokerages compensating hundreds of favoured clients for investment losses.

The practice is not illegal but violated a finance ministry directive and infuriated smaller investors whose losses were not covered.

"Even if there is a slump in stock prices, it won't have much impact on investment in plant and equipment since corporations have enough capital of their own," Mr. Ochi was quoted as saying by Kyodo News Service.

Meanwhile, Japan's surplus with its trading partners jumped a hefty 25 per cent in July, marking its seventh consecutive monthly increase, and private economists

expect the surplus to continue widening through the end of the year.

The unadjusted customs-cleared trade surplus climbed to \$6.68 billion during the month from a revised surplus of \$5.33 billion in July 1990, the finance ministry has said.

"Import growth was higher than expected or the surplus would have been even wider," said Kazuko Mizuno, economist at Baring Securities (Japan) Ltd.

She and other economists expect Japan's politically contentious trade surplus to continue widening for at least the next six months as the U.S. economy starts to show signs of life and oil prices fall relative to last year.

But Japanese officials said the long term pattern of Japanese trade is difficult to determine. "We are facing a difficult phase, but we can't say yet that wider surpluses have become a clear trend," a finance ministry (MOF) official said explaining the data.

On the surface, Japanese officials received good news in the form of a shrinking trade surplus with the United States — Japan's most outspoken trade critic.

The surplus with Washington narrowed to a \$3.01 billion overhang in July, from a revised \$3.07 billion surplus a year earlier.

Exports to the U.S., however, increased for the first time since February, possibly suggesting that even a slowly rebounding U.S. economy will reverse a narrowing trend in the bilateral surplus.

Overall, exports, which increased for the 14th straight month, climbed 11.1 per cent to \$26.57 billion.

The MOF official attributed the growing exports to a 9.3 per

cent appreciation of the yen from a year ago. A stronger yen inflates the value of Japanese exports when they are measured in dollar terms.

For example, even though the volume of cars exported to the U.S. fell 4.5 per cent in July, their value increased 9.0 per cent, the MOF official said.

But overall exports were also boosted by a 93.8 per cent increase in sales of trucks and buses to the Middle East.

Imports, the other side of the trade equation, climbed 7.1 per cent to \$19.89 billion, their third straight monthly increase. Much of this month's gain came from a 31.8 per cent increase in the value of crude oil imports.

However, oil prices are expected to help reduce imports soon as this year's stable prices are compared with those inflated last year by the run-up of the Gulf war.

"In year-on-year terms we are expecting the surplus to grow further through the end of the year," said Christopher Turner, economist at Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd.

Japanese imports were reduced by falling purchases of European cars and automobiles. Mr. Mizuno at Baring said that if art imports had remained unchanged from last year, overall imports would have grown 9.7 per cent in value.

The surplus with the European Community climbed to \$1.85 billion from \$1.15 billion a year earlier, largely because of a 12.7 per cent decline in Japanese imports from the Community.

The overhang with Japan's Asian neighbours, on the other hand, grew to \$2.94 billion from \$2.49 billion because of strong Japanese exports of manufacturing products.

Suharto to help set up Islamic bank

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto will provide a three billion rupiah (\$1.5 million) loan to set up an Islamic bank, Indonesia's supreme Muslim body has said.

Diplomats said the aid was designed to help small businesses and defuse tension between the indigenous majority in the largely Muslim nation and an economically powerful Chinese minority.

Hasan Basri, chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council, said the loan would be part of the 10 billion rupiah (\$5.1 million) needed as capital for a bank that would operate under Islamic law to serve small scale industries owned by Muslims.

He said the loan would be drawn from funds of a Muslim foundation headed by the 70-year-old president.

"President Suharto has given approval and he will help invite other people to provide the rest of the capital needed for the bank," Mr. Basri added.

He did not state the terms of the loan.

Mr. Basri said the government was now processing the licence for the bank, but gave no start-up date. "It will start as soon as possible."

The bank will avoid charging interest, forbidden under Islamic law as usury. But borrowers must share profits from their business with the bank, Mr. Basri said.

"Our business will be conducted under Muslim teaching and we will not charge interest," he said.

A diplomat said the aid would burnish President Suharto's image as a caring Muslim and show he was doing his best to help the small businessman and not just big industrialists.

Influential indigenous businessmen have complained through the media that the Chinese owners of the huge conglomerates that dominate Indonesia's booming economy refuse to share their wealth with the less privileged.

The wealth gap is expected to come into sharper focus as the elections, due in mid-1993, approach, the diplomat said.

American Express resumes business in Kuwait City

KUWAIT — The American Express office in Kuwait City is now open for business for the first time since hostilities ceased in April. The office is situated in the Sahiya Commercial Complex and provides the full range of American Express services including travel arrangements, purchase, exchange and refund of travellers cheques, foreign currency exchange, emergency cheque cashing and emergency card replacement. The office also arranges payments to American Express business partners, and deals with American Express Card account queries. The office remained undamaged during the hostilities although other businesses in the complex suffered. As a result American Express is one of the first worldwide companies to resume business in Kuwait. Before the office could be opened, basic banking facilities were reactivated in Kuwait and suitable living accommodation had to be found for staff.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Futures-linked trading made for occasional volatility but most investors shied away due to worries over excess supply and the brokerage scandals investigation. The Nikkei closed down 19.67 at 21,621.63.

PARIS — Prices ended virtually unchanged as modest profit-taking offset targeted buying in a handful of Blue Chips. The CAC-40 index closed up 2.16 at 1,851.83.

LONDON — Stock ended with small gains after drifting down throughout a dull afternoon with little support from Wall Street. The FTSE 100 index closed up 4.4 at 2,624.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks kept most gains at midday. Traders said buying was not heavy and mainly based on special situations. Moderate gains in the bond market provided support. The Dow was up 12 at 3,038.

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Sex: Female
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White hair on chest
White hair on all legs
Short Tail about 8 cms long
Weight: 10 kilos (approximate)
Height: 32 cms (approximate)
Age: 6 years old
Note: The breed of Miniature Schnauzer has a large growth of hair under their chin which is known as and in appearance looks like a "beard."
PEPPER was last seen in the Green Valley Shopping Centre Thursday (Aug. 23) night at 8:30 p.m.
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Serb rebels attack Croatia town

BELGRADE (AP) — Federal army troops were reportedly involved in clashes that broke out anew in Croatia Wednesday.

The clashes erupted in mid-morning, after a brief full following Tuesday's talks between Croatia's leaders and federal military chiefs during which they agreed on the need for a ceasefire.

A Croatian TV cameraman was killed and his assistant injured near Vukovar, the Croatian Ministry of Defence said.

Radio Belgrade said Serb militants appeared to be making a push to capture Vukovar, a Croatia-held town on the Danube River border with Serbia.

The Yugoslav News Agency (Tanjug) quoted reports from the battlefield as saying federal army troops were also involved in the clashes.

Tanjung quoted military sources in the area as saying that federal troops deployed near Vukovar had come under attack from Croatian positions. The army suffered no casualties, Tanjug said.

The agency said clashes were intensifying by early afternoon.

Heavy fighting in recent days had prompted Croatia to warn of all-out war with rival Serbia.

Yugoslavia's collective federal presidency, which adjourned a session late Tuesday, resumed its meeting Wednesday behind closed doors, Tanjug said.

After returning to Zagreb from talks with top Yugoslav military leaders on the Adriatic island of Brioni, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman indicated slight optimism in a televised news conference.

He told reporters while the meeting was marked by differences of opinion, "there is a certain amount of hope left that we can avoid the escalation of war imposed on Croatia."

Mr. Tudjman, who conferred with Federal Defence Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic and the army chief of staff, Serb hardliner Gen. Blagoje Adzic, was scheduled to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris Wednesday.

His arch-rival, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, also was invited to go to Paris after Mr. Tudjman, Tanjug reported.

In Brussels, the EC proposed a peace conference for Yugoslavia if a ceasefire takes effect in Croatia by Sunday, officials said.

If not, the EC foreign ministers agreed to take unspecified measures against Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic.

Earlier, Croatian officials said the government would order a

full-scale mobilisation in the republic, where at least 256 people have died in fighting between Croatian security forces, Serb guerrillas and the army since June 25.

Yugoslavia's collective presidency, nominal commander of the armed forces, met in Belgrade to discuss the escalation of tensions.

The commission it appointed to enforce an Aug. 7 truce, seldom respected, said Tuesday clashes in Croatia had increased in recent days.

It warned the fighting was spreading toward the central state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has a volatile ethnic mix of Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

"Real war is being waged in a large part of Croatia," Croatian Deputy Premier Mato Granic told reporters in Zagreb.

Mr. Granic said the government would take urgent measures, including general mobilisation, so that "the burden of war could be shared by all citizens."

Media reports said fighting continued Tuesday at several points in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second largest republic.

Croatian radio reported renewed clashes across a swath spreading from the Dalmatian hinterland of Krapina to Slavonia, a region in eastern Croatia bordering Serbia.

Meanwhile, the Croatian Information Ministry said Monday's fighting killed at least 12 people and wounded 80. The Croatian News Agency (HINA) later said 30 people were killed and 60 injured in Monday's fierce battle for Vukovar in Slavonia.

There was no independent confirmation of the casualty toll.

Croatia threatened last week to order mobilisation unless the federal army withdraws to barracks by Aug. 31.

As Serb rebels backed by federal troops push deeper into Croatia, residents of the usually lively Croatian capital, Zagreb, still can't believe their city could come under attack.

But they fear the worst. In the past few days, crisscross steel antitank barricades have sprung up next to main thoroughfares and bridges over the Sava River, ready to block passage of army tanks.

Many residents have started clearing out their basements for fear of air raids. Some have even started stocking up on staples, just in case the undeclared war between Serbs and Croats finally creeps into Zagreb.

Soviet party offices turned into clinics, cultural centres

MOSCOW (R) — Local officials across the Soviet Union began sealing Communist Party newspaper offices and finding new uses for party buildings after a presidential confiscation order.

In the city of Belgorod to central Russia, a party building was transferred to a health care and cultural centre.

In Kazan, on the Volga, more than 50 buildings were transferred to local authorities, according to the Soviet news agency (TASS).

And in the Soviet capital, workers in buildings owned by the Communist Party packed up their personal possessions. As city officials carried out an order issued Saturday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"A majority of rooms in our offices are sealed," said Ivan Filimonov, member of the editorial board of the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, organ of the hard-line Russian Communist Party.

"When people came to work this morning, the police would not let them inside," Mr. Filimonov said.

Mr. Gorbachev, angry over party complicity in a putsch by hardliners, quit as Communist leader at the weekend and

Walesa mobilised army during Moscow coup

WARSAW (R) — President Lech Walesa said Wednesday he had ordered Poland's armed forces to prepare for mobilisation last week immediately after the failed coup started in the Soviet Union.

"I had to order preparations for mobilisation and for conscripts to remain in service (after the end of their term)," Mr. Walesa told reporters. "We had to be prepared for all possibilities."

Mr. Walesa, who as president is Poland's supreme military commander, said he summoned the prime minister and the ministers of defence, interior and foreign affairs 10 minutes after learning of the Moscow coup on Aug. 19 and agreed with them on the need to mobilise.

"I had to defend the state and I did it," Mr. Walesa said, responding to criticism that Poland had been slow to react to the developments in the Soviet Union. "I did everything that the president had to do in defence of Poland."

Mr. Walesa said he created a working group whose job would be to work out details of the mobilisation.

He said the situation in the Soviet Union was still volatile and that under the circumstances it was most important for Poland to be able to organise itself in case of any threat.

Mr. Walesa was speaking during a break in a conference of foreign affairs experts on Polish policy in the face of the breakup of the Soviet Union.

"The situation is so volatile that one is not even able to establish a partner for talks," Mr. Walesa said.

He also said that the Soviet ambassador to Poland, Yuri Kashljev, had been recalled.

Mr. Walesa did not elaborate but according to the Polish press, Mr. Kashljev reportedly supported the eight-man Emergency Committee that tried to depose Mr. Gorbachev.

Frustration, confusion reign at Lithuanian-Polish border

LAZDZIAS, USSR (AP) — The line of cars stretched beyond view and thousands of people sat, steaming with anger, and waited to cross into Poland at the first border post to be handed over to breakaway Lithuania.

"Why don't you let us through we are not drug smugglers," an angry Lithuanian woman shouted at a Soviet KGB border guard. "Just let us through."

Lithuania's independence drive, accelerated by last week's coup, may herald hope for a future without Soviet control. But at present it was causing frustration at the border, where the process of training inexperienced Lithuanians how to guard the frontier was causing unusually long delays.

Thousands of people, mostly tourists, have been sitting in cars and buses for up to five days in the 3.5-kilometre line, waiting to negotiate the six-layer crossing now run jointly by Lithuanian and Soviet officials.

"It's terrible over there. There's no normal government," said Polish traveller Paul Jankowski after getting through customs. He gestured back toward the embattled republic, where he had been visiting for six days.

"They don't know what to do," Soviet officials are handing control over to Lithuanians, after the republic last week extracted the Kremlin's promise to let it guard its own international border crossing.

But confusion reigned Tuesday at Lithuania's sole crossing into Poland, 170 kilometres south of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

Soviet coup leaders to face treason charges

MOSCOW (AP) — The leaders of the coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev will face the charge of high treason, and could receive the death penalty if convicted, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Tuesday.

The news agency said criminal proceedings under article 64 of the Russian Federation's criminal code were begun against leaders of the State Committee for the State of Emergency — the group that on Aug. 19 proclaimed itself to be running the Soviet Union after seizing power from Mr. Gorbachev.

Punishment for conviction under this article ranges from 10 to 15 years in prison, to death. Execution in the Soviet Union is carried out by firing squad.

It was unclear whether formal indictments have been brought against the surviving members of the committee.

The eight men who signed the committee's statement claiming power were Vice President Genady Yanayev; Prime Minister Vladimir Pavlov; KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov; Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov; Interior Minister Boris Pugo; Oleg Baklanov, deputy chief of State Defence Committee; Alexander Tizyakov, president of Association of Soviet State Enterprises, and Industrial, Construction, Transport and Communications Facilities; Vasily Starodubtsev, chairman of Soviet Farmers' Union.

Mr. Pugo was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head as he was to be arrested at his home Thursday. Initially thought to be a suicide, questions later arose that it may have been murder or a suicide pact with his wife, who also was found shot.

TASS, without identifying its sources, said that in addition to the members of the committee, officials also are interrogating a "large number of persons directly involved in the plot's preparation and staging."

Investigators from the prosecutors' offices in the Russian Fed-

Moldovans celebrate independence declaration but face troubles

KISHINEV, USSR (AP) — Moldavians who swarmed the capital's central square to celebrate their independence declaration will face ethnic and economic hurdles on their path to secession.

Moldova Tuesday took advantage of collapsing Kremlin power after a failed coup and declared independence, becoming the seventh of the 15 republics to break with Moscow.

The republic's parliament by a vote of 282-0 declared Moldova "a sovereign independent and democratic state, free to decide its contemporary affairs and future without any external interference."

The jubilant crowd of about 200,000 packed Grand National Assembly Square outside the parliament building, chanting "liberty," "independence" and "long live our victory."

Children were dressed in colourful Romanian folk costumes and bands played traditional tunes. Parliament designated Aug. 27 a national holiday, replacing Nov. 7, which commemorates the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

The coup gave us an impulse to speed up independence for our people who have suffered such difficulty," President Mircea Snegur told the crowd.

Moldovans raised their hands to approve a resolution to create a Moldavian army, take over border and customs points, form a National Intelligence Agency and confiscate all of KGB property on Moldovan territory. They also demanded withdrawal of all Soviet military personnel.

"Our spirit is now freed," said George Plesca, an engineer. "We have been in the Soviet prison for so many years," he said. "Our children will remember this day."

But Mr. Snegur told the crowd "Moldova's problems are only beginning."

Moldova faces the complex question of possible reunification with Romania, which controlled most of its territory before 1940; border disputes with the Ukraine; and economic and ethnic difficulties.

Romania was forced to give up control of Moldova in 1940 under a secret pact between Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union.

The independence declaration culminated a process that began two years ago when the newly elected parliament made Moldova, which is identical to Romanian, the national language. It replaced the Cyrillic script with the Latin alphabet.

Only about two-third Moldova's 4.3 million population are ethnic Romanians. The remain-

Cambodia peace moves positive, U.S. says

PATTAYA, Thailand (R) — Peace talks to end 12 years of war in Cambodia are moving in a positive direction, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said Wednesday.

He brushed aside concerns among Cambodian leaders that Washington might scupper breakthrough agreements reached Tuesday to end 12 years of war.

Washington was committed to a comprehensive settlement to the war adhering to a U.N. peace plan, Mr. Solomon told reporters on his arrival for a meeting of representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The Phnom Penh government and its three guerrilla rivals agreed Tuesday to cut the size of their armed forces and to disarm the remainder under U.N. supervision — a breakthrough that prompted exiled Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen to declare the war over.

The factions were now discussing a number of other questions such as details of disarming, the form of elections and several amendments requested by Phnom Penh.

A final agreement must be approved by permanent members of the Security Council before the U.N. undertakes what would be a massive peace-keeping and reconstruction mission in Cambodia.

"The United States is determined to see a credible role for the United Nations that will provide for free and fair elections for the Cambodian people in conditions of security and basic expression of Cambodian sovereignty which is the free political choice of the people," Mr. Solomon said in a statement.

"My impression is that there seems to be movement in a positive direction," he said.

Prince Sihanouk, who is chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC) that groups the four factions, and Hun Sen have voiced fears the United States might object to a Cambodian accord that deviates from the U.N. plan.

The plan envisages deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force and a civilian administration to run the country before internationally monitored elections can be held.

Kaifu tells Soviets it is time to normalise ties

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has sent a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev saying it is time to normalise ties between the two countries, Kyodo News Agency said Wednesday.

The letter was delivered to Mr. Gorbachev Tuesday, the agency said.

Tokyo refuses to sign a peace treaty or provide large-scale economic aid to Moscow until the Soviet Union returns four islands off northern Japan seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II.

The Foreign Ministry declined to confirm the report.

On Tuesday, announcing that Tokyo would recognise the three Baltic republics once Moscow did, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mitsuji Sakamoto said: "I hope such territorial changes in the Soviet Union could help a return of the islands."

Russian Vice Foreign Minister Georgii Kunadze told a Jiji Press News Agency reporter in Moscow that Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin would soften his original proposal that the islands be returned one by one over 15 to 20 years.

"It is absolutely not necessary to leave the settlement of the northern territory dispute for the next generation," Mr. Kunadze was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The Russian Republic would seek to sign a peace treaty with Japan, and Asian and Pacific issues would take priority in its future diplomacy, Jiji quoted Mr. Kunadze as saying.



Toshiki Kaifu

A Foreign Ministry official tried Wednesday to dampen expectations the tumultuous changes in the Soviet Union would pave the way for return of the islands.

"It is not the time to discuss the issue. There are lots of things to do before that," he said.

"On top of that, we, as well as the rest of the world, are uncertain which government — the Soviet Central or the Russian Republic — we should consult with."

"As long as the northern territorial dispute is left unresolved, we cannot hope for an improvement in Japan-Soviet relations," the Sankei Shimbun newspaper said in an editorial Wednesday.

"The issue has become one of international public opinion. The Soviet Union should make a decision once and for all," it said.

Pakistan, India report heavy firing across border

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India both reported heavy firing between their troops in the disputed Kashmir region for the third day Wednesday after a border clash Monday.

Pakistan said it would raise the Kashmir issue at the next Non-Aligned foreign ministers' meeting to be held in the capital of Ghana, Accra, on Sept. 4-7.

"Heavy fire is being exchanged by the two sides even now," a Pakistani army spokesman said. "Artillery and heavy weapons are being used by both sides since Monday."

Pakistani troops suffered heavy casualties in the renewed clashes Wednesday in the Poonch sector along several parts of a control line dividing Kashmir between the two countries. Indian officials said in Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

They said Pakistani helicopters were spotted taking their dead and injured away.

A Pakistani military spokesman said Tuesday at least 20 Indian troops were killed. Indian army sources in the state's summer capital, Srinagar, said at least two soldiers had died.

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Wednesday played down the clashes saying they were "hot of a serious nature." But he said defence authorities were keeping the border situation "under close watch."

"There have been casualties on both sides, but they were on a lower side," he said.

Pakistani and Indian military commanders agreed Tuesday to try to quell the firing when they spoke on a hotline between New Delhi and Pakistan's military headquarters in Rawalpindi.

7 die in New York subway derailment

NEW YORK (AP) — A subway train jumped the tracks early Wednesday and plowed into a pillar, killing as many as seven people and injuring 150, authorities said.

The 12:15 a.m. (0415 GMT) accident occurred as a 10-car downtown train was approaching Manhattan's 14th Street-Union Square Station, the Transit Authority (TA) said.

"It was like an explosion," said passenger Joseph Ricketts, who had bloody neck and torn dress and was waiting to be treated.

"Some people from another car got thrown into our car. There was a lot of smoke. The car was just shredded. There were wires hanging down. People were screaming."

Firefighters and police worked to free victims trapped in the wreckage. Victims were lifted out of the tunnel on stretchers.

Some passengers were given oxygen and treated for minor injuries at the station. Others were berded onto buses to be taken to hospitals.

Fire chief Kenneth McGowan said at least four people were killed. Mayor David Ikeneth, who ventured into the tunnel, said as many as seven were dead.

Fire Department spokesman Tom Kelly put the number of injured at about 150.

The cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

TA spokeswoman Karen Gardner said the accident occurred about 200 feet (60 metres) from the station as the train was crossing from the express car slammed into a pillar, she said.

Four cars were mangled, McGowan said.

One passenger, Albert Webb, 30, said the train "was going so fast, the next thing you know it was 'boom.' The lights went out."

Webb said he saw a baby fly out of its mother's arms.

"It is a mess-tainted steel, girders buckled, one car sheared in half," the mayor said.

Column

'Gentleman bandit' surrenders

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who lost his oil industry job two years ago surrendered Tuesday, claiming to be the mannerly "gentleman bandit" responsible for robbing nearly 100 people in two states. Flanked by two attorneys, Lon Perry, 49, of Spring, waded through a group of reporters, walked up the steps of police headquarters and stood quietly at the front desk while he waited for detectives to take him away.

Mr. Perry surrendered because he had a guilty conscience over the recent arrest of another man in the case, said Allen Isbell, one of Mr. Perry's attorneys. Mr. Perry, his gray hair combed neatly, appeared somewhat nervous. His hands shook slightly as he wiped his face several times. Isbell identified Perry as a longtime Houston-area resident who lost his oil industry-related job during the energy bust, became depressed because he could not get a job and turned to crime.

14-year-old is halfway to being a millionaire

DUBLIN (R) — A teenager who at random picked out some numbers for his uncle to use on his lottery ticket is halfway to becoming a millionaire at the age of 14. But Gavin Marnell cannot touch his 414,202 punts (\$621,000) winnings until he is 18. Under Irish National Lottery rules it has to be held in trust for him until then. Marnell's uncle Eamonn asked him to pick some numbers for his lottery ticket and promised to go halves if they won. He duly kept his promise and jokingly tore the cheque in half at this week's prize-giving.

Dog saves boy, kitten from fire

NEWPORT (AP) — A teenager says he and his kitten were saved from a fire by a universal symbol for firefighters — a Dalmatian. Dirk Tanis, 15, said he fell asleep Saturday after starting to cook and awoke to the family dog, Spuds, biting his hand. Flames were touching the kitchen ceiling, the microwave was melting and smoke filled the house. Tanis ran from the house and called 911. Meanwhile, he said, Spuds grabbed Gizmo, a 5-month-old kitten, by the scruff of the neck and took her out of the house. "We always talk about how dumb he (Spuds) is," said Tanis' mother, Gay. "We didn't think he would have the presence of mind to do something like that." The fire caused little damage outside of the kitchen, said fire Capt. Ben Roach. "If I had a pet, I'd like to have a pet just like that," Capt. Roach said. "You always see Lassie on TV doing neat things. Well this dog did a real neat thing."

Jerry Lewis' son pleads innocent in art theft case

LOS ANGELES (R) — Christopher Lewis, the son of entertainer Jerry Lewis, has pleaded innocent to owning and selling stolen works of art worth \$200,000. Deputy district attorney Peter Cagney said the limited edition graphics Lewis was alleged to have sold were stolen last November from a warehouse in the Los Angeles suburb of Van Nuys. A total of 168 lithographs with a total value of \$200,000 had been stolen, Mr. Cagney said in Los Angeles superior court.

Cheating students face 10 years jail

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh, desperately trying to curb cheating in school and college examinations, will start jailing guilty students for up to 10 years. "Provisions have been made to award a minimum of three years and maximum of 10 years of imprisonment to students for offences like copying from text and changing answer scripts," an official statement said. Similar penalties will apply to those such as teachers who leak questions, issue false marks or diploma certificates and supply notes for examinations. The government will bar guilty students from examinations for three years, one official said. The decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting Monday night after a series of examination irregularities, he added. Students expelled for cheating have often attacked teachers, torn up examination papers, burned furniture, set vehicles on fire and clashed with police, witnesses and officials said.

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